



Hundred : Harvest Time

ハヴエスト・タイム

12

[Hundred]

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大熊猫介 (ニトロプラス)
Illustration

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セリヴィア

《神聖協会》の教皇。
月基地にて自身の野望を
果たそうと暗躍する。

ジュダル・ハーヴェイ

クレアの兄。
ウルスラン社の
実質的な支配者。

マルコ

セリヴィアの従者。
ルカとは双子の姉妹で姉。

ルカ

セリヴィアの従者。
マルコとは双子の姉妹で妹。

リザ・ハーヴェイ

名門ハーヴェイ家の末子。
人類最初の感染体。



リディ・スタインバーグ

リトルガーデン生徒会元副会長。
クレアの指名を受け生徒会長に
就任した。

如月ハヤト

本作品の主人公。
歴代一位のハンドレッド
反応数値を誇る。

エリカ・キャンドル

リトルガーデン生徒会元副会長。
クレアと共に月へ同行する。

クレア・ハーヴェイ

リトルガーデン元生徒会長。
月基地の稼働により生徒会
長職はリディに移譲。

エミリア・ハーミット

ハヤトの同級生。その正体は
グーデンブルグ王国のお姫様。

HUNDRED



お互い**全力**で戦おうよ。
ハヤトを賭けて――

如月ハヤトを賭けた

否。

自らの想いの強さを

証明するために

今、二人の女の戦いの幕が
落とされた。

わたくしは**《絶対無敵の女王》**！
パーフェクトクイーン

戦いでも、恋でも、絶対に、負けませんわッ！



Prologue

— Don't be a hindrance— —we are in the middle of the speech of my Onii-sama now.

Constructed on the lunar surface by the earthlings, Lunaltia Base is organized in such a way that each division of each country and organization gathers together.

The section situated at the center of it— —is a section of *Puritaria*, one of the two organizations that led Lunaltia Base Establishment Plan— —commonly known as 《Lunaltia Project》.

Opening her eyes, Liza, who was in the capsule of the《Central Room》that exists in the basement of this section, gave a warning to the woman wearing white vestments and a long high hat on her head who appeared before her.

Right now, she's sending her own *energy* to the entire Lunaltia Base.

The construction of Lunaltia Base was carried out at high speed, so the motive power hasn't been completely secured.

Therefore, because she possesses a strong *energy*, it was decided that she would become the motive power of Lunaltia Base.

That's because there's another organization that led《Lunaltia Project》.

That's based on the intentions of Judal Harvey, the representative of Warslan Company and who's giving a speech at the ceremony hall of the ceremony of the space advancement of mankind that is taking place on the surface of Lunaltia Base where he declared that he's going to be the chairman of Lunaltia Base Cooperative System.

Following that, Judal Harvey talked about why he hastened the completion of Lunaltia Base.

By proceeding with Lunaltia Project, not only it gives them an advantage when fighting the Savages, but by making Lunaltia Base operate as soon as possible, it will be possible for them to develop new medicines for the unknown

diseases whose treatment haven't been found, meaning that many lives will be saved.

Besides, Lunaltia Base serves the purpose for the collection of rare metals and the development of new high-tech materials to make the lives of the people even better.

Since the *Second Attack*, it's obvious that the Earth won't be able to sustain alone the population that is increasing once again, so the development of the moon as a future colony destination is important.

Furthermore, he also talked about the usefulness of Lunaltia Base, like the discovery and development of new planets.

But the reason why he keeps talking to the public is that he will never go beyond his public position*.

***TN: In other words, to never say what he really thinks.**

There was only one reason about why he was impatient to proceed with the construction——.

Because he himself doesn't have much time left.

The body of Judal which isn't resistant to the virus was affected by a mysterious disease that the Savages and the meteorites that fell from the space have.

He has no more than a year left.

Nevertheless, he wanted to fulfill his dream of a young age.

The person he loved.

Where he promised to be the president of the moon to Est Steinbelt——

Of course, there's a reason why the pope of the Holy Church, Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III, also hastened《Lunaltia Project》.

However, she didn't have the need to hurry anything in particular.

It's no longer a big difference for her if the day was extended one year, two years and so on.

It's been 1,000,000 years already——.

Even if she has just woken up, she has been continuously waiting for a favorable chance for thousands of years.

But still, she had the feeling that she wanted to fulfill her dearest wish as soon as possible.

So, she aligned with Judal and hurried the matter.

And now, she started to move for the sake of her dearest wish.

The 《space-time moving device》*time machine* made by Bill Harvey is already in her hands.

A little more and all the parts will be assembled.

The moment of her dearest wish is drawing near.

That's why she didn't intend to comply in the least the words of Liza who said 『Don't be a hindrance』.

With a grin on her face and while making sounds with her footsteps, Serivia moves and gets closer to Liza.

Liza said, showing an offended expression on her face.

— I told you to not be a hindrance, and yet——

Together with those words.

The pair of eyes of Liza shone violently.

At the same time, shock waves are released from her body and are strong enough to blow away to the back not only the regular human beings, but also the Slayers who can't stand on the spot.

As the capsule was destroyed and the liquid filled in it was spreading out to the floor all at once, and even though her whole body received that power, Serivia didn't move, not even a single bit.

Even though the hat that was covering her flies and reveals her expression, she stands there, as if nothing had happened, showing the very same smile.

Liza asked, turning her inquisitive eyes towards Serivia.

– ... who on earth are you?

– You know it, right? I am the pope of the Holy Church, Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III.

– That’s not what I’m asking. You should know that as well, don’t you?

– Yes.

Laughing unintentionally with her nose, Serivia continues.

– Liza Harvey— —in Little Garden, you are referred as the『Little God of Little Garden』, correct? If so, then I can call myself the God of this world as well, don’t you agree?

– The God, of this world...?

– Exactly. The God of this world.

At the same time with the repeating of Liza who repeated that again.

The eyes of Serivia released a golden brightness.

– Wha— —

Ba-dump, the heart of Liza beats fast in a big way.

(What, is this...?)

Her field of vision turns vague and began to dissolve.

Two lights of golden color meet her eyes.

The eyes of Pope Serivia.

*Ba-dump”

Again, the heart of Liza beat fast.

(This is bad...)

Her body doesn’t move.

It won’t listen, no matter what she says.

It’s as if she was frozen.

Floating lightly, Serivia approached Liza.

The things she can see at the waist of Serivia are— —.

(... wings? A two-headed dragon...?)

In any case, she has never seen them before.

(Ah...)

The palm of Serivia touches the cheek of Liza.

— An existence like you was created in this world. That's more than what I've imagined. I am grateful that you were created for my sake.

Serivia kisses Liza.

Then, the eyes of Liza also got dyed in golden color— —.



Chapter 1: Wish and demise *The unusual phenomenon of the venue* Escape and liberation

Serivia and Liza are in the middle of their confrontation in the «Central Room» in the underground of the Holy Church.

The speech of Judal is reaching its final stage.

It was at that time where he thought that this would end safely like this.

And suddenly, an attendant stood up.

A woman wearing a white dress.

– Hey, Elena!

A high official man of the Empire of Rasiya who was sitting next to her stands up in a hurry and tries to restrain the woman, stretching his hand.

However, by shaking off that hand, the woman started running towards the stage.

– JUDAAAAA— — — L!!

The woman shouted that name, takes one gun from her dress and rushes over in a straight line to where the man is standing in the back of the venue.

Three consecutive— —

While running, the woman fired 3 bullets.

However, Judal wasn't perturbed by that.

He never tried to escape.

A transparent barrier employing *energy* was deployed in front of him in preparation for unexpected attacks like this.

Therefore, the 3 bullets fired continuously from the gun of the woman were prevented by the barrier.

– Stop that woman.

Judal gives orders while expressing a dissatisfied expression towards the one who stopped his speech. Then two men who were standing by on the left and right wings of the stage started to move.

They are Slayers belonging to Warslan and who were standing by for security.

In the unlikely event where they have to deploy their Hundred, both men were in an armed state and confront the woman with a Chevalier type sword and a Crusher type long sword, respectively.

Of course, they aren't aware that the opponent, the woman, is Elena Skalnikore who was one of the representatives of the Empire of Rasiya at the World Martial Arts Tournament.

Not only Judal, the spectators are the same.

What they came to notice was that she threw away the gun and deployed the armament.

– *HUNDRED ON!!*

She shouted, grasping tightly the Hundred that she took out from her pocket.

Then, her body is wrapped in light blue light.

When that light disappeared, her appearance changed to something like a centaur that exists in myths.

It's a fully armed form of a Raider type Hundred, 《Ice Silver Warhorse》*Red Chariot*.

Her eyes emitted a golden light.

– You killed my beloved Vasily, so I will kill you!

Elena accelerated all at once using *energy* and gets closer to the position of Judal in a straight line, blowing away the two guards who approached to capture her.

The other guards also tried to move, but it was too late.

– Haaaaaaa!

The spear of Elena stabbed the transparent barrier deployed in front of Judal.

The sound that echoed right after that was the sound of glass breaking.

And at the same time——.

Not only those who were in the ceremony venue.

Everyone in the world became speechless too.

It's because the huge spear of Elena who destroyed the barrier stuck into the chest of Judal.

Puah! Blood begins to overflow from the mouth of Judal.

With blank eyes, Judal saw the face of the woman who stabbed him.

— I see, you are...

— Guah!

When Judal recognized the presence of the woman and tried to say her name, a slashing line was mercilessly drawn by a short sword on the back of Elena.

It's Neveah Grauss——the bodyguard of Judal who did the attack.

— Guuh!

Although she's flooded with blood that gushed out like a spray, she pulls the body of Elena away from Judal and knocks her on the ground.

Then she ran over to Judal, lifted up his body and spoke.

— ——Judal-sama!

But she couldn't do anything else.

A large quantity of blood is overflowing from the hole opened in his chest.

At this rate, he will die.

That's the situation that can be understood at a glance.

— Someone, someone please, hurry the rescue——

— ... it's fine already...

Judal said to Neveah who shouted.

– It's fine already? Judal-sama, what are...

– Neveah... I... I built Lunaltia Base like this and became the representative of it. The promise from my very young days— I was able to achieve my goal, the dream of my life. So, there's no point in living anymore. Anyway, I was destined to die sooner or later. This is also an appropriate end for me—

He has sacrificed a lot of people to reach his goal.

That's the thing that he understood very well and better than anyone.

However, Neveah denies that.

– There's no way that's true.

Grasping tightly the hand of Judal while crying, Neveah continued.

– ... there's a meaning to live. Please, live for me. For me, and my child—

– ... child?

In a surprised state, Judal asks.

– Yes.... I will never be your number one. But, I only wanted to leave what I can leave now. So, I—

– That means that you weren't keeping the promise with me, isn't it?

He didn't plan to leave a child or anything like that behind.

As the successor of the Harvey family, she knew that he couldn't take her even if he was responsible of her, because he couldn't bring himself to take responsibility for her as she was the same thing that he was burdened with.

– ... after all, I wanted your child before you passed away. So, I—

– ... how foolish...

Judal continues, saying amazed.

– How many months already?

– It will be two months soon.

– I see... I won't be in time for them, huh...

After a little silence, Judal said.

– That child holds a curse and it will become a curse for you too. So— —

– — —I disagree.

Before Judal said something **there**, Neveah said clearly.

– I am going to prove to be successful to you. I will dedicate my life for you, my beloved. The moment I declared so, I intended to accept curses and everything, therefore— —

So, I didn't have the intention to accept your proposal.

Neveah expressed her own intention.

– ... haha, is that so...?

Judal spontaneously laughed at himself.

– It seems like I have been loved by you more than I thought.

– You noticed that now?

Neveah gently smiled.

– Since always, I have loved you more than anyone else.

For the person in question who has been taught about her romantic feelings, she didn't have a single interest but to fight for him, but Neveah was in love from the bottom of her heart.

Those feelings never changed.

– ... I am really sorry, Neveah. If that's the case, it's fine if you do as you like.... I also did whatever I pleased. I'm not in a position where I can blame or condemn your way of doing things....

Judal had just said so to Neveah who wipes her tears accumulated on the area around her eyes with her fingers.

– Onii-sama!

What he heard is the voice of Claire who was observing the ceremony at the audience seating.

Behind her who rushes over to her older brother, he can see the figures of Erika and Chris who were observing the ceremony next to her.

Claire wears the uniform and badge as the president of Little Garden Lunaltia Branch—Erika the uniform as the vice president—and Chris the uniform of Little Garden Lunaltia Branch respectively.

At the same time, Hayato and Emilia who were guarding dressed in their Variable Suits, rushed to Judal.

First, Judal opened his mouth with his eyes on Claire.

— ... Claire, I caused quite the troubles to you, didn't I...? I am truly sorry.

Speaking of the state of Judal who says so, it's like she wants to avert her eyes.

Nevertheless, Claire just stands there, and listens carefully the words of her older brother.

She was feeling that these may be his last words.

— ... I won't be able to tell them directly. So, please tell Liza and our father. That I am really grateful for going along with my selfishness, okay—

— .. I, understand...

It's not like she loved her older brother.

But, why?

Even if she tries to endure it, tears rise from the outer corner of her eyes.

Claire sits down and covered the right hand of her older brother, it's warm but she couldn't feel strength at all.

— But, it's fine if you don't say those words, just rest for a bit—

— That won't do, Claire. Anyhow, I won't survive. So, won't you let me speak out whatever I please, like I usually do?

— Onii-sama...

— Please apologize on behalf of me for the troubles I caused to Chris, the maids and Charlotte. As well as other people, please. That's right, Vitaly too—

Claire felt doubt with the name he said like murmuring at the end.

(... Vitaly?)

Is his memory starting to get cloudy already?

Although she felt doubt about why he said the name of the woman who was supposed to be dead, Claire didn't say anything.

Only Neveah and Chris could understand that in this place.

Judal continues his words.

– ... and——Kisaragi Hayato-kun.

– Ah, yes!

Judal looked at Hayato, smiling with a puff——.

– You will think that these things are too much, but I entrust Claire, Liza——Chris and Little Garden to you——

– Err, well.... I don't know if I can do it, but I will do all that I can!

– ... although it's an unreliable answer, I will rely on you...

From the mouth of Judal who smiled as he was saying so, *Cough*, blood was overflowing.

– Judal-sama, if you speak any further, then...

If he keeps speaking, then that time will really come.

Her slight wish will be shattered.

Thinking so, Neveah tried to stop him from talking.

Judal is showing a delightful smile and slowly raised his hand high in the sky and said, like reaching out towards something.

– Fufuh, it seems that the call of fate has arrived.

– Onii-sama, I won't forgive you for saying such a thing masenwayo. The rescue team is already here, so until then...

The words of Claire that thinks of her older brother.

However, it doesn't seem that they reached Judal.

– ... I have always been waiting for a moment like this.



Judal muttered as he stared at the void.

He was assembling words as if he was calling out to someone.

– ... long time no see, Est... I fulfilled the promise...

Hearing those words, Claire was convinced.

She was sensing it a little, that her older brother continued loving Est, who had been taking care of them as a substitute for their mother since he was a very young child.

Her older brother has lived for the sake of the promise that he made in his childhood with Est, and— —.

– Est... you are going to praise me, right...?

At the same time he finishes saying those words.

The arm of Judal who was smiling, fell to the ground.

– Onii-sama!

– Judal-sama!

Both Claire and Neveah raised their voices at the same time and leant against Judal.

And right after that— —.

– Wha...!

Suddenly, the lights of the ceremony venue went off with a violent sound.

Screams and noises dominated the ceremony venue.

Before the next change that has occurred, Claire stares in wonder.

– Wh-what, is... th... kuh...!

The floor was mysteriously shining faintly.

... is that perhaps having an effect on them?

Her body gets hot and the heaviness increases.

With that much, she ends up collapsing from her knees.

And a headache started hurting sharply.

(What really is this desuno, is this...?)

When looking, Neveah was also at wit's end.

The other Slayers were the same, including Hayato and Emilia.

They collapsed from their knees like Claire, holding their heads.

(No way, is this...)

Claire recalled the time of the Gardens Festa almost a year ago.

Vitaly Tynyanov emitted sound waves from Replicant Savages.

– Don't tell me than this is also your...?

Claire turned a sharp look to Elena.

However, Elena seems to be experiencing the same pain.

– Y-you are wrong... I, have no... guh, aah...

Elena's body twitched.

Thereupon, she looked like her consciousness was completely coming to an end.

Elena has stopped moving.

(If that woman didn't do anything, then who on earth...?)

At that time, the figure of a person was pictured in the head of Claire.

The woman who rushed the establishment of Lunaltia Base together with Judal—the Pope of the Holy Church, Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III.



With the unusual phenomenon that occurred unexpectedly, the ceremony inside the venue was in chaos.

Naturally, those who guarded outside the venue also realized the abnormal event.

That's the same for Nesat, Krovahn and Nakri, the Olfred brothers who wore their Variable Suits.

– ... what's that light?

It was Krovahn who questioned so while looking up dumbfounded at the ceremony venue that is continuously emitting a thin light immediately after the illumination went down.

– It's *energy*...

Next, it's Nesat who muttered so.

– ... *energy*? What do you mean, Nee-chan?

– Even if I say so, I don't get it. But, I feel in my body a lot of people's *energy*...

– Yeah, me too——

That's what was said by Latia who came approaching to their side.

Fritz was also next to her.

Both Latia and Fritz, those two, were also guarding outside the venue like Krovahn and company.

Therefore, they are wearing their Variable Suits too.

– I also feel something similar, you know. This is something absolutely strange
——

Something abnormal is occurring inside.

Believing so, Latia said.

– I'll check for a bit!

– Hey, wait!

It was Fritz who restrained her in a hurry, grabbing the arm of Latia who tried to move towards the ceremony venue.

– Don't stop me, Fritz! If something is happening inside, we must go and help, don't you think!?

– You could say that, but if you act arbitrarily, then the damage may spread out needlessly, isn't it? First of all, I'll get in touch with Dr. Charlotte.

Because of that, they should ask for instructions and when Fritz touches the arm's communication device, at the same time, the *rings* of everyone's arms

who were at that place made a sound.

The *timing* is perfect, an emergency call has arrived.

『Can everyone hear me?』

– This voice...

Nesat stares in wonder.

Following her, Nakri raises her voice happily.

– Mei Mei!

『Yes, it's Mei Mei. I am glad that the communication connected. A thing like an interference signal was being emitted, the communication wasn't possible with the ones in Lunaltia Base, so it took some time』

In other words, this communication seems to be transmitted only to the Slayers of Little Garden— —it's using Little Garden's private communication line.

– ... hey, Mei Mei. What on earth is happening in the ceremonial venue right now? There's something absolutely strange, you know?

It seems that she couldn't control her impatient feeling.

Latia immediately went straight to the issue at hand.

『Well, there are a lot of things that it's difficult to start from which one, but I will go to the main subject only. Apparently, there seems to be a device installed in the ceremonial venue that steals *energy*. Because of that, the Slayers inside can't move...』

As expected, like confirming it, Latia and Nesat looked at each other's face.

– Who's the one doing such a thing?

Fritz was the one who asked so.

『Uhh, it hasn't been confirmed yet, but Dr. Charlotte is thinking that it's very likely that the device was set by the Holy Church』

Mei Mei added that it's because the believers of the Holy Church took the initiative to finish the ceremony venue. That they set the trap during that period, which is similar to the conjecture of Charlotte.

– In other words, we were fooled by *Puritaria*?

That's what Krovahn said. He continues.

– Then the hell is their purpose? Are they going to steal Lunaltia Base or something?

『In relation to that, there's also the possibility of not being able to say that it won't happen, but...』

– Huh? What do you mean with that?

『Anyhow, let's leave the whole story for later』

Stopping the doubt of Krovahn who had a surprised look, Mei Mei said.

『Krovahn-san, Nesat-san, Nakri-san, we have a request for you three. In order to set free the ceremony venue, we want you to go and destroy the control unit. Can you do it?』

– Yeah, no problem.

Krovahn gives an immediate reply and calls out the other two people.

– That goes the same for Nee-chan and Nakri, right?

– Yup.

– ... of course.

Following Nakri, Nesat nodded.

– ... so, where's the aforementioned control device?

『We don't really know where the trap installed inside the ceremony venue is yet, but when you get inside, your *energy* will be stolen. Therefore, regarding everyone, we want you to head to the *control center* of Lunaltia Base which we suspect is operating the ceremony venue』

– If we get to that place, we'll know.

In the eye at the other side of the eyepatch, Nesat was projecting a map.

The distance can be reached in about 10 minutes from here.

– ... so, are we the only ones who are going? We aren't going to touch computers or anything like that, are you okay with this?

Nakri's the one who asked so.

Even if they arrived there, it's unlikely that she can cancel the trap of the ceremony venue.

That also goes for Krovahn and Nesat.

『As it was said earlier, the strategy is destruction. According to Dr. Charlotte, she wanted to destroy the control system herself. It's like the idea of Dr. Charlotte, that it would be better to do that in order to not misuse the *energies* gathered and stolen』

– I see, so that's how it is. Then, all is good.

– 'kay then, let's move. You guide us, Nee-chan.

– ... got it.

With the call of Krovahn, Nesat nods.

It was Latia who called them out there.

– Hey, wait. If you go, then let us go too! We don't know what might be there, and it would be better to have a lot of people with fighting power!

Becoming rushed, she declared so.

What she meant for us is her and Fritz who stands next to her.

However, there was a voice who stopped her.

『Please wait』

It's the communication from Mei Mei.

『Latia and Fritz are going to wait there for the time being. It's possible that something else will happen in the in the future. And there's a possibility that the strength of both of you may be needed separately』

That's also an instruction of Charlotte.

– Alright, if so, let's be on alert.

It's unfortunate, but it can't be helped.

In order to wait for that time at this place, Latia accepted the order obediently.

『Thank you very much. If the state has been understood or if the situation changes, we will contact Latia-san and Fritz-san right away. Thank you very much for listening』

Saying so, Mei Mei disconnected the communication.

– Well then, shall we go?

– Yup.

– ... let's go.

Krovahn and company start.

After they saw their retreating figures until they disappeared.

Fritz muttered, turning his line of sight to the ceremony venue that shines dimly again.

– They are okay, right...?

They are, of course, Hayato and Emilia.

And, President Claire and everyone.



『Guys, can you hear me?』

At that time, Charlotte Dimandius, the *main technologist* of Little Garden, had a simultaneous communication with the members of Little Garden who are in the ceremony venue.

– ... Charo! What the heck is this!?

The first one who replied was Emilia.

Although she is in pain and at wit's end like Hayato, Claire and the rest of the Slayers, Emilia asked Charlotte.

『I don't know yet, but I presume that the ceremony venue was turned into a device that absorbs the *energy* of the Slayers』

Following Emilia, Claire asks.

– ...you can't stop this somehow?

『Unfortunately, that seems to be impossible. I immediately tried to access the control system of Lunaltia Base, but someone blocked me. Currently, I can't do anything from the Earth. Even the door at the entrance of the venue can't be opened』

Mei Mei who remained in Little Garden section was also being challenged, it doesn't seem to be easy to regain control and release the block, but Charlotte added a few more words.

『That's why I issued instructions to destroy the control system to Krovahn, Nesat and Nakri who were guarding outside』

– In short, that means that they will destroy the system that is controlling everything— —or something like that desuno?

『In that situation, the device set up in the venue should also be stopped』

Using the solar power generation and the like, the auxiliary system of each section and facility will continue to operate the entire Lunaltia Base, but in this situation, it can't be helped.

The judgement of Charlotte seems to be that is also to defend against them, because they don't know how they are going to use the stolen *energy*.

『... in the first place, now that the heart of Lunaltia Base is similar to stopped.... Even if it's destroyed, the situation won't change that much』

– The heart of Lunaltia Base is stopped... you say? Charlotte, what do you mean with that desuno!?

It's understandable that Claire is upset.

The heart of Lunaltia— —.

It's the younger sister of Claire, Liza Harvey herself.

『... Claire, calm down and listen to me』

Prefacing so, Charlotte said.

『The *energy* response of your younger sister— —of Liza Harvey, has disappeared from the capsule of the《Central Room》』

— — —WHAT DID YOU SAY!?

『Since the control system isn't in our hands, the details can't be confirmed but when looking and limiting at the remaining logs, the *energy* response of Liza disappeared just before the system was hijacked. And, there are traces of Pope Serivia who appeared at Liza's location』

— In other words, the Pope appeared where Liza is and took control of the base desuno?

『If I have to say to be precise, it would be correct to say that Liza was an obstacle to take over the control. But, I don't think that the Pope approached Liza to do only that. There's another unfortunate news for you now』

— Is that also related to Liza desuno?

『... no, it's about another member of your family. The body of Bill Harvey, your father, was found. It was found in the section that is the laboratory of the *time machine*』

— Wha...

Following her older brother and younger sister, her father too was— —.

As is obvious, the inside of her head becomes pure white.

『There's evidence of being shot by a gun, but we don't know who did it. However, there's evidence that Pope Serivia also appeared there』

— Summing up, it's very likely that Pope Serivia also did that... that's what you mean desuno?

This is not the case to be shocked.

Telling herself that grasping the situation as a representative of Little Garden section is priority, Claire regains her mind.

『Yeah— —I think that there is a reason about why she killed him— —. She stole the research results』

— That's, no way...

It's not Claire who raised her voice.

It was Chris.

『It appears that Chris seems to have noticed it』

– It's about the *time machine*... correct?

『As one would expect of you. You are correct. Even though it's pretty much a guess, the Pope seemed to be trying to get them for some reason. I can reach that conclusion because of the device of the ceremony venue and that she laid her hands on Liza』

– In other words, a colossal *energy* is needed to move using the *time machine*. Does that mean that she must create a huge wormhole— a huge space-time tear in outer space with, of course, the motive power energy of that device?

『Uh huh.... This is why the Pope set that in order to obtain that colossal *energy* and set the mechanism of the ceremony to lay her hands on Liza』

– — — !!

The expression of Claire who heard the words of Charlotte changed to a grimmer one.

『If you release an enormous *energy* in outer space and open a big wormhole, there's a probability that a massive amount of Savages will appear, and not only the moon, but also the Earth will fall into a crisis』

Which means that even a crisis of mankind can develop.

At any rate, there are few Slayers on the Earth.

『That's why I thought about it and I want to get back Liza from the hands of the Pope. If she uses all the *energy* in her body, that will affect the life of Liza. Therefore, I'm planning to send someone to head towards Liza— —』

That was when Charlotte tried to name Latia and Fritz.

– There's no need for it masenwa.

Claire declares, making sure to stop the talk of Charlotte.

– I will go to Liza's location masu.

『But Claire, now you are...』

– We will be fine if we go outside, correct? I am the《Absolute Invincible Queen》*Perfect Queen*— something of this degree, I will endure it and I will be

able to go outside masuwa.

Saying so, Claire shouted, grasping tightly the Hundred from the neck case.

– *HUNDRED ON!*

Her Hundred was deployed.

It's her Dragoon type《High Noble Battle Princess》*Alisterion*.

... however, now she's wearing the uniform as the representative of Little Garden Lunaltia Base unit—she's not wearing her Variable Suit.

Therefore, she only created six floating batteries.

Claire immediately transforms them into Buster Cannon.

– If I remember correctly, the passage behind the stage should be able to lower the barrier wall. It's facing outside, so we'll be able to make that section independent, correct? If so, and by opening a hole in the wall, problems shouldn't occur inside.

– In short, Claire-sama will destroy the outer wall and go outside?

– That's what I meant desuwa.

She answers, nodding to Chris who asked. Claire continues speaking.

– Chris, you aren't affected by the mechanism, correct?

– Correct, because I am not a Slayer.

– If so, protect the suffering Slayers together with the other people desuwa. As the leader, I will leave everything to you masu.

– Understood.

– Well then, I'm off masuwa.

Saying so, Claire starts moving her feet towards the passage in the back of the stage.

Hayato and Emilia call out to her on her back.

– ... president!

***TN: Not that he was going to call her Claire-senpai? Damn author.**

– We'll go too!

Although they show a painful look, the two of them fall to their knees on the floor and slowly stood up.

Following them, Erika stands up as well.

– I will also go.

– Guys...

– If the opponent is that Pope, it will be tough for the prez alone. Hayato thinks the same, right?

– ——yeah.

Hayato pointed his eyes to Emilia and replied, nodding firmly.

– Besides, I can't stand the unpleasant feeling that my *energy* is being used by the Pope.

– ... understood mashitawa.

As she jested and looking at Emilia who points the palms of both hands to the sky, Claire smiled with a puff.

– Well then, let's go together.

– Everyone, good luck in combat*¹.

Four people started walking while gaiting unsteadily.

Chris starts talking on their backs.

– Everyone, good luck in combat*².

TN: Both ¹ and ² were written as “みなさん、ご武運を” which literally means: “everyone, the fortunes of war”.

Unexpectedly there, a voice resounded in the venue.

– Please wait!

Little Garden Senior High School Martial Arts Department 2nd Year.

It's the voice of Kanzaki Touka.

— You, why...

It seems natural that Hayato who turned around looked surprised.

At any rate, she came cheerfully running down the audience seats.

— Why you say...? Well...

It appears that she guessed what Hayato tried to say.

With a nonchalant expression, she said.

— All the Slayers-san are suffering but, I'm completely fine, yes?

— Ah, I see.

Being told so, Hayato realized.

— Now that you mention it, there's no Variant Virus in your body.

Therefore, she's not receiving the effect of the trap set in this ceremony venue.

The expression of Touka who heard the words of Hayato became bright in a flash.

— In short, that means that I can be of help in the present situation, right? So, please, take me with you, Shinshishō! Undoubtedly, I can become a fighting force!

— That can't be masenwa.

It's Claire who butted into the conversation.

— Certainly, you are in this place now, an important fighting force— for this reason, it would be better for you to remain here now and prepare for a crisis of this place. Besides, the current role of Kanzaki Touka is to protect the daughter of the king of the Empire of Yamato, isn't it?

— Well, that's right, but...

—— Right.

Kanzaki Touka is visiting Lunaltia Base due to a mission.

... however, unlike Hayato and the others, her task isn't to defend Lunaltia Base.

By a request from the Empire of Yamato, she's visiting Lunaltia Base as a guard of Princess Luli, the Imperial Princess.

– ... that being said, Kanzaki Touka. You are going to remain here and you are going to accomplish your duty. Are we clear desuwane?

Certainly, that's how it is.

– Understood.

And Touka withdraws obediently.

– I will protect this place properly.

– Well then, Erika, Kisaragi Hayato——and Emilia Hermit. Let's go masuwayo.

Obeying the words of such Claire, Hayato and the others are in the back of the stage. They started moving to the outer circumference of the ceremony venue.



– ... although we came to the outer circumference, it looks like we are receiving the effects of the trap inside the venue.

It was Erika who said so.

Certainly that's true, Hayato thinks that as well.

They felt a little relieved after coming to the outer circumference, but they cannot say that they are in a healthy condition.

Their head hurts as ever, and their bodies are sluggish too.

In order to escape completely from this state, they have no choice but to come outside of the ceremony venue completely.

– Alright then, shall I destroy it at once?

Emilia said, turning her gaze to the wall.

Then, she asks Charlotte, using the communication device.

– Charo, it’s impossible to lower the wall barrier from there, right?

『Give me a minute. Mei Mei, can you give it a try?』

『It’s useless. The barrier wall isn’t accepting the controls』

Following the words of Charlotte, Mei Mei immediately answered.

『... it looks like that. Like the other systems, the control system is blocked and it seems that there’s nothing that we can do now. Naturally, the door of the back gate doesn’t open either』

– Is that so...

Naturally, they don’t have the option of waiting in this place until control is regained.

– Then, let’s do it manually.

After coming to Lunaltia Base, all kinds of countermeasure meetings and measure trainings were done in order to face whatever could happen during the ceremony of the space advancement of mankind.

Erika participated in all of them, she was well-informed about this venue.

Certainly, there’s a way to manually lower the wall barrier in case of emergency when the system is interrupted.

Erika invoked the map data on the other side of her glasses and confirmed the place where the handle was located——she headed to that place and opened the panel.

When she turns the spigot, the wall barrier starts to go down.

Thereupon, the block became independent.

– Claire-sama, you shouldn’t have a problem to make a hole in the wall with this.

– Affirmative desuwa. Well then, here I go masuwayo. You guys, step back.

Hayato and Emilia step down, then Claire tried to charge with *energy* her Buster Cannon.

However——.

– ... kuh!

The very moment when Buster Cannon emitted a fierce brilliance like usual.

The color of her *energy* immediately— —.

The emerald green brilliance became thin and extinguished.

– ... kuh, the *energy* hasn't stabilized masenwane...

Claire muttered with frustration.

It looks like it's impossible for her to do a full power bombardment due to the influence of the mechanism set up at the ceremony venue.

Because of that, it will be complicated to destroy the wall.

When Claire reached such a conclusion, it was Emilia who took out her Hundred.

– If so, I'll give you a hand. If we bombard at the same time, then we may be able to destroy it even if it's not with all our strength, right?

– No, that's not necessary.

– ... Hayato?

Emilia looks at Hayato with a surprised-like look.

– maybe, I can destroy it. I just thought of a measure.

– A measure? I don't understand it well, but if Hayato says so, then I'll leave it to Hayato. Prez thinks the same, right?

– Yes, I guess that's not a problem...

Hayato took out the Hundred from the neck case while Claire is pointing curious eyes as to what he was going to do.

– *HUNDRED ON!*

Following the brilliance of a red *energy*, the Chevalier type Hundred in the hand of Hayato.

Hien, appears.

– Uh-oh...

It seems it's the effect of the mechanism.

It's the consequence that it felt weightier than usual.

Hayato unexpectedly lost the balance of his body, trying to have *Hien* at the ready.

– ... Hayato, are you okay?

Emile asks, supporting the body of the flustered Hayato with both arms.

– Certainly, if it's the usual Hayato then that may be destroyed, but if it's this condition...

– It's fine. Besides, I said that I thought of a measure, didn't I?

Hayato said so and faced the wall, recovering his stance.

(... yeah, it's alright...)

Telling that to himself, Hayato readies *Hien* in an overhead position.

Looking at that figure, Emilia understood what Hayato is trying to do.

– Ah, that's right! Even if we can't grant *energy*, Hayato has *that!*

– Uh huh—

That sort of thing, Hayato nodded only at the neck.

And then, taking a big breath—

– Kenzaki Style Secret Technique—《Tracing Slash》*Zaneizan!*

While shouting, Hayato swings downward *Hien*.

Zaneizan is a technique that unleashes a series of instantaneous slashings created by Hayato's master, Kenzaki Ryūsei.

By using natural vibration, it has the effect of doubling the power.

Fuu, Hayato said, breathing a sigh.

– It looks like I managed somehow.

There was a magnificent hole in the wall.

Its size is enough so that people can pass through it.

– Hooray! As expected of Hayato!

– Hey, stop!

Hayato tries to separate from Emilia who's clinging to him. Looking with a sidelong glance, Claire had a sullen expression as expected.

– Emilia Hermit, this is not the moment to be flirting masenwayo.

After she reminded Emilia of that, Claire moves forward with her feet to the position of the hole.

– Kisaragi Hayato, you did it well.

Looking back, and after she said that to Hayato.

Stopping her feet in front of the hole, Claire looked outside.

The height to the ground surface is around 5 meters.

– ... in this case and with this much, even if the *energy* isn't stable, we might be able to jump down desuwane. Let's go masuwayo, Erika.

– Yes.

Erika jumped out of the hole with Claire.

Using *energy*, they make a gentle and clean landing.

– ... if you come outside, you will really have no problem masenwane.

Claire muttered so.

It seems that the strangeness was completely lifted the moment they came outside of the ceremony venue.

– Well then, shall we go too??

– Yup.

As Claire did with Erika earlier, Hayato and Emilia jumped out of the hole.

– Ah...

The weight that they felt in their body disappears instantly.

The sluggishness was cleared in one go.

– Looks like we returned to our original state, huh.

Hayato said, landing softly.

– Yeah.

Emilia answers.

There, they heard the voice of Fritz who was guarding outside.

– I heard that you'll come outside, but oh man, to think that you'll appear outside destroying the wall.

Behind him is also Latia.

– I was really surprised, you know.

Hayato replied towards the approaching duo.

– Otherwise, we couldn't be able to escape. It was turning a little troubling inside...

– We heard from Mei Mei the general circumstances. Anyway, because you were in such a state, we were also worrying about you.

Latia was saying so and turned her gaze to the ceremony venue.

Looking at the ceremony venue, Hayato and the others also noticed.

The ceremony venue continues emitting a faint brilliance.

A golden brilliance.

It's the brilliance of *energy*.

– ... kh

Claire bites her lips tightly.

It was vexing that things were going forward as the Pope wanted, it couldn't be helped.

– Oh right! For the time being, take these.

– These are...

Saying so, Latia handed something to Claire, it was a handbag.

Inside of it are the Variable Suits of Claire and Erika.

– A little while ago, Mei Mei told me to fetch them up. I went to Little Garden

section at full speed and fetched them. There's nothing but a place with a sort of shade of rocks to change clothes, but it'll be better than how you are now, isn't it?

– Latia, thank you very much.

– Eh... ah, yes! Allow me to accompany you!

– ?

Together with Erika, who seemed a little excited, Claire went towards the shade of rocks.

Of course, there's no time to lose.

The two of them come back immediately after finishing changing clothes.

– Well then, let's go.

Hayato cancelled his armament temporarily.

Claire also cancelled it to change clothes.

Therefore, following the call of Claire, the four men deployed their armaments.

And rushed out towards the Holy Church section.

Chapter 2: The two gatekeepers *The truth of the Pope* Serivia and Claire

After Claire and Erika changed into their Variable Suits.

Hayato, Emilia, Claire and Erika, the four of them, deployed their armaments, left behind the ceremony venue and rapidly headed to the Holy Church section where Liza is.

Thereupon, the building is immediately in sight.

They arrived near the gate which is the entrance from the surface.

Before that, they can't see the figures of the believers.

– I don't think they are going to open it by saying to them to open it, isn't it?
So, there's no choice but to do this.

Emilia stood before the gate and created Buster Cannon using *Arms Shroud* that floats around her body.

Looking at her, the flustering Erika raises her voice.

– Wait, Emilia Hermit!

– ... wait? And why?

– There are two doors. If you destroy them, the atmospheric pressure inside will be extreme and if someone is there, it will turn into a serious thing!

– If that's the case, then what are we going to do, huh...?

– By cutting open the top glass, we get inside.

From the top of the top glass they can confirm the situation inside as well and because the management system of Lunaltia is functioning, it will repair itself even if it's destroyed.

Since the idea of Erika was the best, as this will keep at the minimum the damages inside the section, they'll do so.

– ... ah, those...

Hayato raised his voice all of a sudden.

The double door gate opened abruptly.

– Eh...

Similarly, Claire, Emilia and Erika also noticed it.

What appeared from the other side are girls with dark brown skin.

They wear black learning clothes and seem to be bilaterally symmetrical, holding a sickle in their hands, and were standing to the opposite of each other, as if they were gatekeepers.

– From here onwards.

– You won't advance.

The two say so, one after another.



– It looks like they didn't come to pick us up, don't you think?

It was Emilia who spontaneously cracked a joke.

The door behind them is starting to close already.

– Besides, those two...

– Yes, I remember those two desuwane.

Following Erika, Claire said.

That's the same for Hayato and Emilia who remember them.

At the final of the World Martial Arts Tournament, they are the ones who stood together with Serivia.

– ... IIRC, you are Maruko and Luka, right? It's a shame but, you'll let us pass even if it's by sheer strength.

Saying that, Emilia returned Buster Cannon to particles that she was holding in her hands— and created a rapier in its place.

– Hey, Emilia— wait!

Hayato stops Emilia with words, as she tries to strike Maruko and Luka,

kicking the ground at any time.

– What are you doing, Hayato!? Those guys, as long as they aren't with the Pope, we should win. Even the Prez understands it since we fought them once, right?

Those words were heard by Maruko and Luka.

– ... don't underestimate us.

– About that, we weren't even trying.

The two people who said so one after another have no expression, but their voices were including anger.

Still, Emilia doesn't move back.

– That goes for us too. Besides, you have one less person than at that time, so we have one more person this way. We're not going to lose.

– Good grief, you really are...

Looking at Emilia who's provoking them over and over again, and after she sighed as if she was amazed.

Claire said, giving one step forward with her feet.

– Is it impossible to let us go inside without fighting?

– No one is going to pass through here.

– Because, that's an order.

As it was natural, the two answered.

– ... it was Pope Serivia who ordered you desuwane?

Regarding that query, the two don't answer.

They just glared fixedly at Claire.

– What is Pope Serivia doing inside?

They didn't answer that question either.

– Then, there is no choice but to do this masenwane.

Claire pointed to them the muzzle of the floating batteries that are floating

around her body.

— — —by defeating you, we will pass through here masuwa.

— What? In the end, we are doing it, isn't it?

Saying that, Emilia shows a smile and has the rapier at the ready.

— If it comes to this, then there is no other choice, I guess?

— ... however, 4 vs 2. As this side has more people, it should be easy to hit a gap. And when looking after that gap, please head first, Claire-sama.

Erika said so with a small voice.

Because it was the best to head to the《Central Room》and since it's their first priority, it was a natural strategy.

There was no reason to refuse to Claire.

— ... Erika, I feel myself indebted to you masuwa. Emilia Hermit, Kisaragi Hayato, you are fine with this too, correct masenwane?

— I'm fine with it. Hayato also says that it's fine, right?

— Yeah, of course.

At the same time Hayato answers.

The battle began.

Splitting to the left and right, Maruko and Luka dodged the chain that Erika released and the beams that were fired from the floating batteries of Claire.

In order to follow that, Hayato attacks Maruko with *Hien*— —and Emilia attacks Luka with the rapier, unleashing a series of attacks without taking a rest.

Maruko and Luka deal with them with their sickles, but it seems that's the best they can do.

As planned, the attention has driven away a little from Claire.

『Claire-sama, at once!』

— Understood mashitawa.

Claire answered the communication from Erika who's covering Hayato and

Emilia and tries to head over the top glass of the *Puritaria* section, but Luka noticed her on the way.

– You are not going!

– ——kuh!

After she warded off the rapier of Emile with the sickle that she swung with all her might.

Luka jumped high and swung the sickle towards Claire.

Then two blades of energy appear and fly, aiming at Claire.

Claire, who was aware of them turned only her neck, and by confirming them, she tries to turn around her body to deal with them, and there, Erika shouted.

– Claire-sama, head to the top of the top glass without stopping!

Erika, who kicked the ground and jumped high, created a huge barrier between the *energy* blade and Claire and became a shield.

– Kuuh!

Erika blocked the blade and landed on the ground.

– Damn, wait!

Using a propulsion device, Luka flies out chasing Claire who's heading to the top of the dome of the *Puritaria* section.

However, there was something twisted around her leg.

——it's a chain.

With that, Luka was thrown to the ground.

– Kuh, this is...!

Luka glares at the end of the chain.

She thought that it was Erika who was there.

But, who was there is——.

– Hehehe, you can't chase her, you know.

Emilia was showing a smile on her face.

Although it's similar to *Everlasting* of Erika, the chain that Emilia created was with *Arms Shroud*.

Only that, it was shedding a blue light.

– It gives an “offense and defense change” feeling, isn't it? Vice president, I think that Hayato and I can manage somehow or another, so go with the Prez!

– Are you sure?

– Go fast!

There was no reason for Erika to reject that proposal.

– Emilia Hermit! I give you my thanks!

Getting up, and after saying those words of gratitude.

Erika began to run, going after Claire.



(With this, I can get inside masuwane...)

Claire landed on top of the top glass barrier of the Holy Church section, created Buster Cannon in her hands and fired an *energy* shot with the muzzle facing her feet.

Of course, there's nothing on the ground.

And when she's about to confirm that no one is there.

A big hole opened in the top glass.

(There's a person ahead)

(Still, I will definitely save Liza masuwa!)

She will also respond to the favor of Emilia Hermit, Kisaragi Hayato and Erika that made her go first.

– Claire-sama!

– Wha...

Resolving herself, Claire tried to jump into the hole, but a voice echoed.

Stopping her feet and looking back, what was reflected in the visual field of Claire was the running and approaching Erika.

She ascended to the top of the top glass using *Everlasting*.

– You came following me?

– Yes, thanks to Emilia Hermit.

– ... is that so? I must give my thanks to her and Kisaragi Hayato masenwane.

Erika is next to her.

The uneasiness of Claire, to some extent, was softened.

– Well then Erika, let's go masuwayo.

– Yes!

The barrier of the top glass begins to repair automatically.

If they act slowly, the hole will close in no time.

Together with Erika who replied, Claire jumped into the hole she opened herself.



『Kisaragi Hayato——Emilia Hermit——do you hear me?』

It was a communication from Claire that reached the position of Hayato and Emilia who are confronting Maruko and Luka and are glaring at each other.

『Erika and I got inside mashitawa. It is thanks to you desu. I am sorry, but I leave the rest to you mashiwatayo』

Receiving that communication, Emilia murmured to Hayato who's next to her.

– It looks like they were able to successfully trespass it.

– With this, the first phase of the strategy is a success.

– What's left is to defeat these two and follow after Prez and the Vice Prez.

Maruko and Luka had their scythes at the ready while showing a fed-up expression towards the words of Emilia.

- That's.
- We are the same.
- By defeating you.
- We will go after those two right away.
- You asked for it.

Using *Arms Shroud*, Emilia created floating batteries. Being sure to follow her, Hayato has *Hien* at the ready.

Hayato and Emilia.

Maruko and Luka.

Unlike before, their numbers are equal.

It's a fight of two versus two.

- Let's go, Hayato!

Emilia fires beams from the floating batteries.

The curtain of the battle raises again.



Claire and Erika who trespassed the Holy Church section, entrusting Emilia and Hayato the battle with Luka and Maruko, headed towards the 《Central Room》——the place where Liza was supposed to be without looking aside.

Although it's a hidden room, Claire has been to that place many times.

So, she remembered the way.

Besides, there are no believers who obstruct the path of the two.

On the contrary, even though no human figure was found anywhere, Claire and Erika could reach the entrance of the hidden passage that connected with the 《Central Room》.

However, the door in front of them is tightly closed and it's unlikely that they can open it.

– ... as one would expect, we won't know until the door opens masenwane.

It was because Liza and Serivia always opened the door.

(There is no method masenwane....)

They don't have time to lose.

There's only one option they must take— —.

If the door that is in front of them doesn't open, then Claire should only blow it away by filling *energy* into Buster Cannon.

– Erika, step back.

At the same time as Buster Cannon finished the filling of *energy*, Claire fired an *energy shot* and blew up the wall, including the door.

– Alright, let's go masuwayo.

– Yes.

Towards the call out of Claire, Erika nods.

The two started moving towards the inner part of the passage, but they decided to stop their feet immediately. That was because two shadows were getting closer from the front of their eyes.

It's a big shadow and a small shadow.

Claire instantly understood who they were.

The big shadow is Serivia and the small shadow is— —.

– Liza...

Stopping her feet, Claire calls out to the small shadow.

However, she looks strange.

Looking at her, there was no light in the eyes of Liza.

She doesn't know what the cause is and why she's looking like that.

Her eyes are just stained in golden color.

– ... Claire-sama...

Erika murmured, and of course, she also noticed the unusual phenomenon.

She's somewhat unusual.

She's dangerous.

She shouldn't be addressed as Liza anymore.

Showing her affection, Erika called out Claire.

Of course, Claire should understand it, right?

Still, Claire calls out her again.

– ... Liza, please reply.

Remaining the same, Liza didn't respond to the call of Claire.

While just slowly walking forward, she approaches the position of Claire and Erika.

It's the big shadow that is walking in order to lead such Liza.

She's the Pope of *Puritaria*, Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III.

Claire and Erika. Serivia and Liza.

And the moment they approached until the distance was around 10 meters.

The first that the Pope did was to stop her feet.

Then, Liza also stops her feet.

– Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III. What did you do to Liza mashitano!?

Claire asked the Pope who stands next to Liza, turning her eyes that show hostility towards her.

– Regarding her, she became my piece.

Serivia answers with a nonchalant look.

– A piece... you say?

– Exactly, she is an important piece concerning my plan.

– ... kh.

It seems those words inflicted pain.

Holding her temper with effort, Claire laid bare her anger and created six

floating batteries surrounding her body and turned all the muzzles towards Serivia.

– Claire-sama!

– Erika, it's alright desuwa. I am calm desu.

Claire answers Erika who was calling out to her.

– I also understand who the other party is masuwa. Still, we can't avoid fighting masen.

Clearly saying so, Claire charges the floating batteries with *energy*.

– Whether the opponent is my older brother, my father, the king of a country, the Pope, God, if, if you try to steal my dear little sister, then I will fight to protect her—however, I'll do no more than that desuwa.



Those words are for Erika, but they were also a declaration of war against Serivia.

Nevertheless, Serivia suddenly started laughing with a loud voice.

– Fufu, fufufu, ahahaha! Ahahahahaha!

Claire was involuntarily shaking due to the behavior that she wasn't expecting.

– ... what, what are you going to do mashitano?

– Just now, you said that you were going to fight God, don't you?

While chuckling and showing a smile on her face, Serivia asks.

– Ye-yes... if it's to protect my little sister, I will fight masuwayo.

– I heard that your mother, Linis Harvey, was saying so often. She herself performed researches to win the fight against God—and that God, is me.

The facial expression of Serivia did a complete change, it transformed into a one filled with madness.

– Wha—

The eyes of Claire are wide open.

– What on earth are you saying——

Being shaken, the charged *energy* was growing pale.

– That’s right! The Pope is not God but a proxy of God——a spokesperson, yes? In fact, claiming to be God and the like is——

While Erika says so, she closes her eyes partly behind the glasses and urges Serivia.

– A Pope like that existed too. But, I’m not like that. I am the 『**God**』itself who has given wisdom, who nurtured and who developed the human race and who was watching over those figures that live on the Earth.

Serivia turns her eyes, like looking down on Claire and Erika.

– Well, it’s obvious that you can’t understand what I’m talking about. Besides, since this is special, shall I tell you a little old tale? A very distant old tale of a very unsightly and pathetic woman——



When Serivia started the old story.

The battle that was starting again in front of the section of the Holy Church.

Hayato and Emilia, the Slayers of Little Garden are fighting with Luka and Maruko——the apostles of Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III, the Pope of *Puritaria*.

– Let’s go, Hayato!

– Yeah!

At the same time Emilia fires beams from the floating batteries, Hayato started to move.

– Uooooooooo!

It’s Maruko who Hayato launched an attack with his own *Hien*.

For Maruko who blocked it with her sickle, Hayato unleashes a series of attacks.

– Maruko!

Looking at Maruko who seems to be pressed by the series of attacks, Luka tries to head there, but Emilia stood in the way, before her.

– You aren't going.

– Kuh...!

Emilia reduces the floating batteries to particles— —.

Continuing with it, and by creating a rapier, she declared to Luka.

– Your opponent is this me!

Hayato and Maruko.

Emilia and Luka.

While their weapons collide with each other, it's evident that the superiority was on the side of Hayato and Emilia.

Both keep pushing their opponents.

And then, at that moment, it came almost instantaneously.

Hayato and Maruko— —-

Emilia brought down Luka.

– This will settle it!

Emilia points the rapier towards Luka who fell on her backside.

– We are more than glad if you give up soon and get out of the way.

However, those two girls didn't comply with those words.

– We haven't lost yet.

That's what Luka said.

Continuing, Maruko said.

– We haven't gone serious yet!

The eyes of the two shed a violent light at the same time.

「「AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA」」

Maruko and Luka who shouted all together commenced an attack on Hayato

and Emilia respectively.

——No.

You could say that it was a roar rather than a scream.

And the attack of the two who were rushing on, as well as their speed and weight were remarkably different from just now.

Hayato had to do his best effort just to stop the attack of Maruko that she swooped down.

Still, because she completely lost her self, he had to manage it with all his strength, so he would be able to deal with her.

However, and as expected, her power is considerable——.

– Guh...! Uah...!

Although Hayato was able to defend against the attack, he was sent flying to the back and fell on his backside.

– Hayato!

– I'm okay.

Hayato stands up and has *Hien* at the ready.

(... if it has become to this, then it can't be helped!)

Although he didn't receive it this time, at this rate, sooner or later he might receive damage.

There was no room to think about leaving the strength for later.

If he suffers damage here, then they'll lose everything.

(Against a Variant, there's no choice but to face it with the ability of the Variant!)

Hayato decided so and his eyes emitted a radiant golden color.

– Don't tell me, Hayato...

Emilia who was confronting Luka seems to have noticed the change of the nature of the *energy* released from Hayato.

Looking at him, the body of Hayato was covered with a thick armor.

Releasing the ability of the Variant, it's full armament.

She instinctively understood that the situation is dangerous for themselves.

Maruko and Luka started to move at the same time.

Maruko was the first, she slashed at Hayato.

About the gap of Emilia who was having her attention caught on Hayato who deployed his full armament, she brushed away the rapier with the sickle.

And Maruko from the opposite side slashed at Hayato with the sickle.

Maruko and Luka——.

Hayato caught with the two blades on the left and right the sickles that were swung downward. But the brilliant eyes of the two light up all together, align their voices and try to swung downward the sickles, putting their strength into them.

「AAAAAAAAAAAAA———!!」

At that moment, the roars of the two overlapped. In the mind of Hayato, the voices of Maruko and Luka can be heard.

『We fight』

『Strength was given to us』

『Revenge was given to us』

『『——for the sake of Serivia-sama!』』

(This is——)

Up to now, several things like this have happened.

It's the empathy between Variants.

It was the appearance of two children left behind in the collapsed town that subsequently passed by the mind of Hayato. Both have dark brown skin. They look like they have 5 or 6 years old.

They were investigating the situation of their surroundings, turning up from rubble where they were hiding.

(These two, maybe they are....)

—there's no doubt.

Obviously, this is the childhood of Maruko and Luka.

Apparently, their names seem to be Amanda and Miranda.

Speaking of other things, he understands that there was a fierce battle in the village where they live.

And most of the people in the village were murdered.

Apparently, they seem to be one of the few survivors of the village.

Three people came, approaching them.

They are the people of the tribe that attacked the village.

Amanda who's later called as Maruko and Miranda who's later called as Luka put their strength into the knives they held in their hands, holding their breath.

– What the heck is this?

One of the three marauders raised his voice.

The language of the tribe is different to the one of Amanda and Miranda.

At the same time, the expression of the man became precipitous.

It's because he found a corpse of a fellow that is rolling on the ground.

– If you thought that we weren't coming back... who did this?

Turning his eyes to the left and right, the man shouted.

– Hey, who's there? Where are you hiding?

Of course, Amanda and Miranda didn't answer.

When looking closely, blood was sticking to the handle of the knife of Miranda.

The corpse at the feet of the man who came was the one she murdered with that knife.

– Hey, come out if you are hiding.

The man shouted again and surveyed the situation of the surroundings.

Eventually, they come closer to where Manda and Miranda are.

It can't be helped.

There's no choice but to do it.

They moved, nodding and looking at each other's face.

Although they are children, they were good at hunting.

As usual, they move like hunting beasts.

— AAAAAA— — — — !!

It was Miranda who moved first.

From the left, with knife in hand, she attacked the prey.

The one she aimed at isn't the man who approached.

But the man on the left who was having a gun at the ready behind him.

Using the opportunity, Mirada succeeded in stabbing the knife in his thigh as she was also looking at the two remaining guys who were there.

Looking at that chance, Amanda started moving and stabbed the knife in the heart of the man from behind.

Of course, today is the first time they kill people.

Still, there's no mercy or the like.

This is revenge.

That's what they said to themselves.

For their father, mother, friends— —.

It's revenge for killing everyone in the village.

— Fuck!

One of the men tries to fire the gun towards Amanda.

It's there that Amanda displayed her quick wittedness.

Lowering herself, she tackled the man.

The bullets that the man fired were passing a little above the head of

Amanda.

The strategy of Amanda is a success.

Knocking down the man and getting on top of him, she stabbed with the knife aiming at his heart.

Two persons with this.

What's left is— —.

Miranda points her eyes to the man she pierced his thighs with the knife.

Perhaps Miranda thought that she disposed of him already, but that's not the case.

– Fuhe, fuhehehe...

The knife of Miranda was stuck in the leg of the man.

But, holding down Miranda, he thrust at her the muzzle on her head.

– Guh...!

Under the man, Miranda grinds her teeth in vexation.

The man put his strength on the body, so she can't pull out the knife, during that time he knocked down Miranda and held down her body.

– Don't move, you piece of shit. If you move, I'll kill you!

The man said while pushing the muzzle to the temple of the forehead of Miranda.

– Throw away the knife.

The man orders Amanda.

– ... kh...

If she throws away the knife, the man will surely shoot her.

After that, Miranda will surely be killed.

Of course, there was no option to escape.

Because it's meaningless to survive by herself only.

If the sisters die together.

That would be on their own accord.

– Hey, throw it away quickly.

It's no use, Amanda throws away the knife.

– Okay, now die.

The man pointed the gun at Amanda.

(I knew it, it's just as I thought)

Amanda prepared herself for the worst and closes the eyelids.

The interior of her chest was full of regret.

It wasn't regret because of dying.

But regret that she was unable to take revenge.

As well as all the people who attacked their village— —.

No, she wanted to die after killing all the inhabitants of that village.

Tears overflow from the eyes of Amanda, spilling over and falling along the cheeks.

Suddenly, they heard the scream of a man.

(...eh?)

What on heart happened?

While wondering, Amanda opened her eyelids.

Then, the man that was supposed to be on top of Miranda wasn't there.

On the contrary, the man fainted by the wall.

— — Miranda was safe.

However, she immediately realized that Miranda didn't do anything.

The dumbfounded Miranda was looking at a certain point.

Amanda turns her gaze to the direction Miranda was looking.

What was standing there was a woman wearing white vestments.

There are two women in black vestments behind her.

– Those who tried to conquer this village, all of them were exterminated.

Saying that, the woman wearing white vestments smiled at Miranda and Amanda to appeal that she was a safe presence.

While still being on guard, Amanda inquires.

– ... who, are you?

– I am a person of the Holy Church.

A woman who wore white vestments while she showed a smile that didn't vary—.

The Pope of *Puritania*, Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III, answered.

– The Holy Church, what's that...?

The moment she heard that name, Amanda with a look similar to a demon, raised her voice and turned the knife to Serivia.

– It's your fault. Because of you, this village was attacked!

– Certainly, I think that's correct.

Without discomposure, Serivia admitted.

– This village was attacked because we, the people of the Holy Church, have entered the land where the pagans are sacred—a sanctuary.

There was a church of the of the Holy Church in this village.

That's why they attacked.

A revenge on the Holy Church who violated what must be avoided.

That's the only reason that this village was destroyed.

– Why, did you, such a thing...

– They moved and took the《Gem that is called God》with my order. Because we violated the sanctuary, the church of the Holy Church of the village was attacked. But, it wasn't my fault that this village was destroyed, you know? It was because you were weak.

– What!?

Amanda overflowed with indignation, listening the words that were like hitting a cadaver with a whip, shirking their responsibility.

***TN: TBH, I don't get the meaning of "hitting a dead body with a whip".**

– Don't screw with us! While saying things to your own convenience!

Amanda kicks the ground and tries to attack Serivia.

However, Serivia wasn't perturbed.

– You don't have to move.

Saying so to the two bodyguards that started moving to subdue Amanda, Serivia turned her left hand to Amanda.

Then, the body of Amanda is blown backwards.

– Amanda!

Miranda raised her voice.

She rushes over in concern to the position of Amanda who fell on her backside.

– What was that force just now...?

With a surprised look, Amanda was staring at Serivia.

(The man of a while ago was hit by an ability just now?)

Thinking to the best of her ability, she could only think so.

To the dumbfounded Amanda, Serivia said.

– If you were as strong as me, this village should have been saved.

Certainly, that may be.

But, they don't have such strength.

So, with a belligerent attitude, Amanda had no choice but to return the words.

– But why are you saying that!? We don't have such strength!

– No, you have it.

She didn't think that she would be denied all of a sudden.

That's why Amanda is overcome with surprise.

Continuing, Serivia said.

– Don't you want to become strong like me?

– ... yes, I want.

It's not Amanda who answered.

It was Miranda.

She continues.

– I want to be even more stronger.

And then, she looks at Amanda.

– That's goes for Amanda too, right?

– That's...

She's right.

– I want to be stronger...

Amanda also said so.

– If we become stronger, then we can take revenge on those who raided this village.

– That goes for me too.

– ... I see.

The answers of the two satisfied Serivia.

She said delightfully.

– Whatever your purpose is, if you have that resolution, then you can become stronger. You can have strength like me.

– But, such a power, how do we...

Amanda said.

She can't imagine how they can get it.

– I can give it to you.

– Is that true?

Miranda said so and she with Amanda who's next to her stare at the face of Serivia.

– Yes, it's true.

Nodding, Serivia continued.

– So, you two, come to my place.

– To my place...?

Miranda asks.

– The head office of the Holy Church.

Serivia replied clearly.

– You won't be able to live in this village anymore, so it's just right in time. If you come to my place, I will give you power.

Amanda and Miranda had no reason to oppose that.

If it's a lie, they can escape at any time.

Because they were thinking like that.

But, what Serivia said wasn't a lie.

By giving them a strange ore called Hundred, they were able to use incredible abilities and by persevering on training, Serivia would kiss their foreheads.

It's something called a favor.

Every time it was done, they felt that mysterious powers come from the depths of their bodies.

So, they continued doing their best on special training.

And each time they received her favor, they were realizing that they were getting stronger.

Originally, their physical abilities were high like their fighting ability.

In the blink of an eye, the two quickly became prominent among the Holy

Church Slayers unit they belonged to.

– Good, very good.

Serivia, who was watching the overwhelming two who are having a sham battle with other Slayers, had a very satisfying smile.

And then, after a short time— —.

Amanda and Miranda joined the Slayers unit of the Holy Church, two years and a little have passed.

Serivia said, summoning them.

– You have become quite strong. For that reason, I want to test your strength now.

– You want to test our...

– ... strength?

– For that, I want you to take a test.

After saying so and broadly grinning.

Serivia told Amanda and Miranda that they were going to fight with 20 Slayers.

Amanda and Miranda already have overwhelming strength in the Slayer unit of *Puritaria*.

Even though two others have the same capability as them, this test is dangerous.

Those two want to cherish them, they don't want to use it.

Therefore, Serivia decided to use 20 Slayers of the Holy Church.

Because this won't be a test if it's not at least that much.

– I wonder, what are you going to do?

– If we win, will you give us your favor?

The one who asked was Amanda.

– Of course.

– If so, we'll do it.

Continuing, Miranda replied.

If they receive her favor, they can become stronger.

There was no reason for the two of them to decline.

And thus, the test started.

A fight of 2 vs 20.

Although the two had outstanding ability, the battle against 20 opponents was tough.

Moreover, the only weapon of the two were sickles— —.

The other Slayers attacked them with various weapons.

It was possible to fight in various ways using *energy*, but it wasn't easy to deal with them.

Amanda and Miranda have already defeated eight people in the first 2 minutes.

Still, 12 people remain.

The two of them are already running out of breath.

Their *vital* also fell by a half or so, and the remaining *energy* is less than half.

At this rate, it will be impossible to defeat the rest of the members.

Everyone who are seeing them should have thought so.

That's the same for the remaining 12 people.

They heard that this will last forever unless the duo gives up.

If they defeat them, it's their victory.

They can receive the favor from Serivia.

– Let's do it.

– We are going to defeat them!

Many people didn't think well about Amanda and Miranda because they had preferential treatment.

Therefore, they aren't going easy on them.

– Now, let's finish it soon, okay?

One of the remaining 12 people.

A man of the Martial Arts type Slayer who had the highest response value and a large body said while hitting his fist with the palm of his hand.

He has a calm and composed attitude.

To his side, four Slayers with sufficient vitality and stamina have their weapons at the ready, while Amanda and Miranda are in a state of breathing heavily.

Amanda and Miranda are in a state of being completely cornered.

Still— —.

– No— —

– We still can't lose!

They shouted.

– It's revenge.

– By overcoming this battle— —

– What...?

Serivia was watching the figure of the two whose eyes shone with golden color and started emitting a violent *energy* from their whole body, then muttered with a smile on her mouth.

– — —it seems the time of their awakening has come.

After that, it took them less than a minute to win.

During that short time, the two defeated all the Slayers.

Towards the position of those two, Serivia appeared while clapping.

– Congratulations. You passed the test. You are awakened.

– ... we are...

– ... awakened...?

They don't understand yet what happened to them.

To the two who murmured with a dumbfounded look, Serivia continues her words.

– That's right, by awakening, you obtained a great power. If you can master that power, then you shouldn't lose to anyone, don't you agree?

– We won't lose against no one.

– We will have our revenge.

– Good. So when you can master that power, I will give you the opportunity to take revenge.

In response to those words, Amanda and Miranda looked at each other and nodded to one another.

The strength the two have is big— —.

It took them less than 6 months to master the ability of the Variant.

That was far beyond the expectations of Serivia.

Serivia was in a very good mood.

– Can we take revenge with this?

Amanda asked Serivia.

– Yes, of course. Go and take revenge to your heart's content.

And then, the day they decided to take revenge came.

With the intelligence unit of *Puritaria*, they identify the people who attacked the village.

They also identified the village where those people live.

A moonless late at night.

The power of Amanda and Miranda who invaded the village and launched a surprise attack was overwhelming.

The two dyed their eyes in golden color then one, two, three, four people — —.

As their family members and friends have been killed, they kill the villagers one after another.

There were Slayers among them, but they aren't rivals to Amanda and Miranda who reached the point to use freely the ability of the Variant.

In the blink of an eye, the two of them massacred all the inhabitants of the village, it was a complete revenge.

It was Serivia who appeared while applauding there.

– With this, you were able to fulfill the revenge of your very young days. How do you feel now? Do you feel a weight off your shoulders, perhaps?

– We did it.

– We are very satisfied.

The two answered consecutively.

– So...

Broadly grinning, Serivia continues.

– So, what are you going to do from now on?

– What are we going to do?

– From now on?

– Yes. After all from now on, your lives continue.

– Life.

– Continues.

With a blank look, they mutter.

Up to now, they were living only for the sake of revenge.

Only that, regarding Miranda and Amanda about other things, there was none.

– You are empty, correct? If so, I will give you a new life.

Saying so, Serivia looked at the eyes of the emptied two with her eyes dyed in golden color.

Then, the eyes of Amanda and Miranda also dyed in golden color, their hearts beat in a big way.

– You are not Amanda and Miranda anymore.

– I am not Amanda.

– I am not Miranda.

The two people repeat with a tone similar to a robot.

– From now on, I will give you new lives and sacred names. So far you were Amanda and now you are Maruko, so far you were Miranda, you are now Luka.

– I am Maruko...

– I am Luka...

– Yes, I think there is no problem with this?

「「No problem」」

The two gathered their voices.

– If that's the case, then I will command Maruko and Luka. You shall devote for my sake with the power that you obtained from me.

– Yes, as I am Maruko.

– As I am Luka.

– With this power that we obtained thanks to Serivia-sama.

– We will devote for the sake of Serivia-sama.

「「From now and forever——」」

The brainwashing is done.

Amanda changed to Maruko and Miranda changed to Luka.

Serivia, who heard the words of the two, had a very satisfying expression on her face.

– Wonderful. Let me grant you the favor from me to the beginning of your new lives.

A new life given to the two, empty people.

And thus, they became the apostles of Serivia.

At the same time the image in his mind is interrupted.

Once again, voices are heard in the head of Hayato.

『With the power given by Serivia-sama』

『To serve Serivia-sama, that's the reason we exist in this world』

『Even if the world meets the moment of its end——』

『We will eliminate the enemies in front of us, as ordered by Serivia-sama!』

『『You will absolutely not force through this place!』』

Hayato was bewildered, receiving the voices of the heart of those two.

(What's the right thing to do?)

The feelings of Maruko and Luka towards Serivia are powerful.

Aside from this, there's nothing good to say.

These two are different from Krovahn and co.

The two who have fulfilled their revenge have no reason to live other than moving according to the orders of Serivia.

Because they are completely brainwashed.

With that much, Hayato had no way to persuade them.

– Hayato!

Emilia returned the rapier to a floating battery and tried to shoot at Luka.

Luka who noticed it decided to fight Emilia again, getting away from Hayato while showing a vexing look.

With this, they are 1 vs 1 again——.

However, this is not the same as before.

The battle between Hayato and Maruko was between Variants.

The two swords collide with the sickle.

Even though she's a half-rampaging Luka, it looks like the side of Hayato who

was bearing the damage is the one that looks superior.

It's evident that in skill, Hayato is winning.

Even as Variants, Hayato's strength is superior.

That would be natural too.

Maruko hasn't received proper combat training.

– Fuck, shit, HAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA—!!!

Maruko raised the sickle way above her head.

Hayato didn't pass up the gap, the chance to win, that was made there.

(Now...!)

Hayato repels with the sword of one of his hands the sickle that was swung downward sharply and with the other sword he hit the abdomen that was full of gaps.

(This was the, only way to do it...)

Hayato muttered in his mind, looking at the defeated Maruko on the moon's surface who lost consciousness after receiving the attack.

He can't make excuses.

After all, that person couldn't be persuaded by him.

However, there was no choice but to experience it personally.

Emilia calls out Hayato who was breathing roughly while staring fixedly at Maruko.

– Hayato, are you okay?

Looking at her, Luka was collapsing behind her.

– Did you finish over there?

– Yup. I had to go serious, but only for a bit.

– Does that mean that you used the power of the Variant?

– ... pretty much.

– More than that, Hayato. Are you really okay?

– I got a bit of damage, but that was all...

Hayato cancelled the armament and turned again to Maruko and Luka.

And after a brief silence.

Hayato called out to Emilia.

– Hey, Emilia...

– What?

– I felt it. These fellows.

– The empathy between Variants, right?

– Emilia also felt it?

– ... yup.

Nodding, Emilia continues.

– Besides, I understand what Hayato is thinking now. However, this is the empathy of the Variant, isn't it? Aside from knocking them down, there was no way that we could help them, don't you agree? I think that probably not.

– ... I see.

– I'm sure both of them can find something new on their own. But you can't do that if you die or break as a person, isn't it? So, we did what we could now —we did our best. I guess there's no choice but to think so. If we didn't do that, we would have been killed.

– ... certainly, that's right.

Hayato smiled, looking at Emilia.

– Thank you. Thanks to you, this went somewhat easier.

– I'm happy that I'm being told so by Hayato.

Emilia returned a broad smile and,

– Well then, shall we carry these two inside? If we leave them here as they are, they will be mistaken as dead. Hayato, give me a hand—

Following Emilia who's carrying Luka, Hayato held Maruko.

Then they jumped using *energy* and moved onto the top glass.



– Haha, that story really sounds like a joke...

Charlotte unintentionally smiled bitterly in her laboratory of Little Garden, listening to the old tale that Serivia talks about to Claire and Erika.

– To think that Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III was an alien that descended on the Earth million years ago and that it was a divine existence who raised humans on the Earth——

That looks foolish——.

It was Vitaly in the monitor set in front of her that wanted to speak, doing it for someone else.

『Good grief, that’s truly foolish』

Saying so while displaying her figure on the monitor, Vitaly continued.

『Although it’s truly an absurd story, if the story of the Pope is true, then a lot of things can be understood』

– One of those things is the《Super Evolution》of mankind.

『Uh huh』

50,000 years ago——.

All of a sudden, mankind evolved at such rate that it cannot be compared with up to that time.

It’s what’s called the《Super Evolution》from 《Old Mankind》to 《New Mankind》.

Which means that aliens were involved in it——.

『Although there were various theories such as the meteorite theory and the virus theory attached to it, to think that the answer was something like this. It makes me laugh』

She really has no choice but to laugh.

The earthlings were raised and nurtured to then be used by her.

And finally, the time of harvest has— —.

It was harvest time, just like with crops and livestock.

— In short, her objective is to return to Planet Notre Dame, the planet where she was born and raised using the *time machine* and making use of evolved earthlings as *energy*.

『Yeah, most probably. Exactly when the《Harvest Time》came up, isn't it?』

— I'd like to say that it's fine if she's going to do as she likes as long as she doesn't harm humans, but she came to the Earth millions of years ago— —if she's going to use the *time machine* to return time to that point, she'll need to open a huge dimension crack with enormous *energy*.

『... if that's going to happen, then it's probable that a lot of Savages will emerge, aren't they?』

— I think so. Even unknown things may come along. If so, the Earth will likely fall into a crisis. That's why we have to stop Serivia. To protect this Earth— —

『To fight God, huh...』

— Those are the words that Linis frequently said.

『It surely sounds like a prophecy, huh』

— Totally.

Charlotte smiled bitterly and murmured, turning her line of sight to a thin flat object that was affixed on the wall of the laboratory— — to the picture where she was photographed as a rookie researcher together with a woman in white robe.

— ... Linis... how closer were you to the truth of this world?



— In other words, you, who is what we call an alien, came from a different planet to the Earth millions of years ago?

At the same time that Serivia finishes talking.

Erika asked Serivia who stands in front of them.

– Exactly.

Slipping out a smile, Serivia replies.

– I have stimulated the evolution of human beings on the earth. All to accomplish my plan— —

– That means that we, the earthlings, were nothing more than tools for you to return to your planet— —am I correct desuno?

– Once again, you are correct.

Serivia answered the question of Claire and continues her words, showing a sudden smile.

– Among the tools, however, your father and your older brother were outstanding tools. If those two put everything they had into it and weren't carrying forward their own plans, my plan wouldn't have taken a little more time. Your mother was an exceptional and superior scientist, just like the first Variant of the earthlings— —

– Even so, for the sake of the *time machine*, you stole and killed my father and on top of that, you went so far as taking Liza...

– You discerned it. Did you realize it?

– If you use Liza to open a space-time gate, you must understand that there's a possibility of attracting a lot of Savages desuwa.

– ... of course, there's a possibility. And that the number is colossal. They will be a great threat not only on the moon but also on the Earth.

– If the story just now is true, then you are like a mother of the earthlings, don't you? Don't you feel anything about exposing us to that danger masenno?

– I don't.

Regarding the question of Claire, Serivia declared flatly.

– You are saying that if I raised the earthlings with affection, then I should have such a feeling, right? But, that's not it. From my point of view, earthlings

are the same as livestock and crops. Even if it's a partner who communicates in the same language. Because you are necessary for my goal, I did no more than develop you. That's why you are just a tool.

Although she seems to be speaking frankly, Claire was feeling a repulsive madness from Serivia.

— In the first place, I don't believe in other people anymore. Even if the other party comes from the same Notre Dame as me, nothing will change. It's the same——

— ... !!

Quivering, Claire noticed that *energy* was beginning to rise like steam from the body of Serivia

Erika is the same.

— Thousands of years ago from now, I couldn't believe anyone else——I can only believe myself. The goal is revenge——no more than that!

Serivia's eyes shine in golden color and a strong *energy* was emitted from the body.

Nevertheless, Erika said without moving back.

— If you say that you are opposing us as a result of revenge, then we, we will have to fight to protect what's important to us!

Erika released *Everlasting* towards Serivia.

However, it never coiled around the body of Serivia.

— Eh——?

There's a reason why Erika showed agitation.

In addition to the two eyes of Serivia, when considering the four eyes attached to the pointed end of the left and right wing respectively——for a total of six eyes which emitted an intense brightness, the color of the chain changed to a golden color and the direction of its tip changed.

— Kuh...!

Instantly, the chain wraps around the body of Erika.

The instructions of Erika aren't obeyed even if she gives an order.

She can't move it and she can't extinguish it.

On the contrary, it strongly tightens her body.

(This is bad...!)

Erika senses danger, watching the figure of Serivia who turns the palm of her hand towards her.

— — — ah!!

The sense of danger wasn't wrong.

Erika receives a shock wave emitted from the palm of Serivia, she was sent flying.

— ... Erika!

Claire, rushing over the collapsed Erika, embraces her.

Unfortunately, Erika lost her consciousness.

— Kuh...!

Liza was manipulated, and Erika collapsed as well.

(... what should I do desuno?)

Claire turns her eyes to Serivia.

Serivia turns a more than a calm look to Liza who is standing upright without moving.

But then— —.

Dimly, Serivia showed a disturbed-like look.

And right after that.

A voice is heard by bone conduction.

『Do you hear me, President Claire?』

It's a communication from Kisaragi Hayato.

She wanted to avoid being perceived by Serivia so Claire didn't answer and touched with her finger the ring of her arm.

It's because she can reply that『I can't answer now』with that tracing method.

It looks like it reached Hayato successfully.

『Is this an encrypted communication?』

『I replied 「I can't answer now」』

Following Hayato, the voice of Emilia is heard by bone conduction.

『By any chance, something happened to the Prez——』

Continuing, there was a call from Hayato.

『... President Claire, we managed somehow to knockdown the two of outside. We'll be heading there soon after this. If you agree, please reply』

To say they managed somehow, maybe they had problems in their own way.

Probably is damage and *energy* consumption.

However, rather than being one, if it's three, then maybe they can manage somehow or another against Serivia, the opponent. Claire thought so and sent 『Roger』through the encrypted communication.

– Truly, the two of outside were dealt this fast, huh.

All of a sudden, Serivia muttered.

Apparently, she seems to be receiving the reports from her partners.

If that's the case, then she grasped the same situation.

– That means that my companions will come here soon desuwane.

Claire continued her words to provoke her.

– If I was by myself, then perhaps it wouldn't be easy to separate Liza from you. But if my comrades are——

– You appear to be quite self-confident, don't you?

Even though it immediately became a 1vs3, Serivia didn't change her calm and composed attitude and stopped the words of Claire.

– Reinforcements might come who knows when. The ones coming and approaching this place and who defeated my adorable subordinates are the one

who fought with you at the World Martial Arts Tournament, Kisaragi Hayato and Emilia Hermit, correct? Those two are very intimate.

– ...kh... what are you saying so suddenly...!

– Ufufu... what an interesting reaction. But it wasn't a surprise.

– I said, what are you saying...!

– For me who I am God, I see through everything. I grasp that you are physically communicating with Kisaragi Hayato— one of the two people who are getting closer to this place, right?

– Physically communicating, you say...!?

That reminded her of the night in Liberia.

When they were having passionate kisses in the bed— —.

Serivia said as if to sink the boot into Claire who had her face dyed deep red.

– So, I said that I see through everything, yes?

Giggling and showing a smile on her face, Serivia continues her words again.

– But, I feel the same Variant Virus inside Kisaragi Hayato and within you. That's the proof that you have connected with him— —

– Saying that we are connected, what's with that way of talking...!

– However, Emilia Hermit also possesses the same type of Variant Virus as you and— —but it's also is a thicker Variant Virus than yours— —. Apparently, Emilia Hermit seems to have a deeper connection with Kisaragi Hayato than you.

– T-that's, what's wrong with that, huh!? Besides, there are other reasons that...

Claire answers while in a hurry.

Then, she was taken aback.

She was just being led by the nose with this.

– A-and, that's what you want to say masuno!?

Claire stares at Serivia.

She's trying to take a dignified attitude as usual, but it was obvious that she couldn't hide that she was agitated. Looks like she's trying to prick that. Serivia tortures her even more.

– Your loved man is deeply connected with another woman. Aren't you regretting that as a woman, I wonder?

– ——Shut up!

In the end, she took the provocation.

Claire turns towards Serivia the muzzle of Buster Cannon that is in her hands.

However, Serivia isn't perturbed by that.

– Ufufu, you are showing a lovely reaction.

She showed a grinning and smiling expression and like that, Serivia continues her words.

– For you, Emilia Hermit is a disturbing companion— —isn't this a partner you want to erase from this world? I can understand your feelings well.

– .. understand? My “that” is understood well by you masuno!?

***TN: “that” is written as “何” which can be use also as “you-know-what” and that. It was a little hard to get a proper translation for this sentence.**

– Hatred stands above all— —. That's why, I will never die, and you can say that's how I came here so far— —.

The eyes of Serivia shine in golden color even more violently.

Ba-dump, the heart of Claire beats fast.

– Come now, Claire Harvey. Be obedient. And now, that power, please lend it to me— —

Claire was unable to separate her eyes from the eyes of Serivia.

(This is bad... desuwa....)

Serivia is getting closer, but she couldn't do anything.

It's because her body doesn't move.

Serivia stops her feet in front of her.

Claire could only accept the lips of such Serivia.

And immediately after their lips overlapped.

Ba-dump, the heart of Claire beats fast again.

And then the eyes of Claire are dyed in golden color.

(My true feelings regarding Kisaragi Hayato and Emilia Hermit...)

(That's——)

Chapter 3: The ability of Johanne

Companions The confession of Nakri

At that time, Krovahn and co. were heading to the underground control room in the common section of Lunaltia Base.

– Ah, Krovahn, over there!

Stopping her feet, Nakri shouted.

Ahead of their line of sight are many believers of *Puritaria* having weapons at the ready—like swords, spears and guns. Everyone, the 20 or so of them, are Slayers.

– ... these mere guards are tough as Mei Mei says and it looks they are controlling the venue from here...

– The control room should be in the back.

It's Nesat who said so.

She's confirming it with the map projected on her eye.

– Alright then, shall we go through in one go?

Saying so, Krovahn deployed his Crusher type Hundred—*Orthros Liberio*. Subsequently, Nakri also deployed her Dancer type Hundred *Duo Varga*.

And Nesat opens the eyepatch, a golden eye is behind that—with her Trace type Hundred, *Truth Eye*, she takes a glance to Krovahn's *Orthros Liberio*—.

– ... *TRACE ON*...

Simultaneously with those words, golden particles begin to overflow from the eye, forming a *twin sword* similar to *Orthros Liberio*.

And when Nesat picks it up.

The believers were closing in all at once.

– 'kay then, shall we go—?

Krovahn, who took a step forward, swung downward *Orthros Liberio* loaded

with *energy*.

– Eat this!

Several believers are immediately blown away to the back by the blade of golden *energy* that was released.

– Nee-chan! Nakri! You go first, I'll be warding off all these guys!

– Okay!

– Got it!

Nakri and Nesat, who answered one after another, began to run following the order of Krovahn.

– Yaah! Haa!

– Haaaa—!

Nakri is using two *rings*—.

Nesat, using the *twin sword*, mows down 1 person, then 2 persons who are in front of their eyes attacking them with an ax and a sword, and heads towards the control room which is ahead.

Nesat is the one leading the way.

– Krovahn, Nakri! This way!

– Ok!

As they follow the lead of Nesat, they immediately reached the control room.

There was a woman of thin eyes who wore a white cape like a habit on her body and who holds a big harp in her hands.

– You are...

Stopping his feet, Krovahn mutters.

It was because they remembered that woman.

Continuing, Nakri stopped her feet like Krovahn did and said.

– If I remember correctly, she participated at the World Martial Arts Tournament—

– ... Johanne...

Stopping her feet like they did, it's Nesat who said so at the end.

On the eye behind the eyepatch, she's projecting her personal data.

The woman of thin eyes whose name was called answered, making sound the harp that she's holding in her hand.

– Yes, I am Johanne... one of the four apostles led by Serivia-sama—and now that you mention it, you participated at the World Martial Arts Tournament—

– That's right. So, we aren't going to introduce ourselves, we don't care about it—

Krovahn declares, readying Orthros Liberio on his shoulder.

– The machine that is behind you is the device that controls Lunaltia Base, isn't it?

It was Nakri who raised her voice after him.

She says so readying *Duo Varga*.

– If we destroy it, that'll stop stealing *energy* from the Slayers at the ceremony venue, right?

However, Johanne doesn't reply to that question.

– It's fine if you don't answer. Because we'll destroy it anyways!

Shouting, Nakri threw *Duo Varga* that was in her hands.

Then, by sighing, Johanne started to play music notes, strumming with her fingers the strings of her Bard type Hundred—《Angel's Harp》*Johanne's Harp*.

Thereupon, a barrier appeared before the eyes of Johanne and the two *rings* flipped.

– ... come to think of it, you fought with that strange weapon.

– That is correct. It's a beautiful timbre, don't you think?

Johanne smiled with a grin and played notes, strumming the cords with her fingers again.

Looking at Krovahn and co. who put themselves on guard as to what is going

to happen, Johanne smiled.

– Ufufu, I just played some notes normally. But, as you have thought, I can do various things with the timbre and songs that I play. But it's not easy to play a musical instrument like this. Of course, I sing songs too.

Saying so, Johanne turned her line of sight towards Nesat, strumming with her fingers the strings once again.

– ... so, even if you duplicate this Hundred, you won't be able to play it proficiently, don't you agree?

– ...

With those words, Nesat understood that she was comprehending her special characteristics.

Besides, she's indeed right.

Even in the lessons of Little Garden, there was no harp practice as one would expect.

Even if she copies it, she doesn't feel that she can handle it properly.

Still— —.

– It doesn't matter, there's no need to duplicate— —such a thing!!

Opening the eyepatch, Nesat shouted.

– *TRACE ON!*

What she duplicated is the *twin sword* that resembled *Orthros Liberio* of Krovahn.

(If I load this with *energy*, then I should break the barrier into pieces ...!)

And then, she can just knock off the harp from her hands as she is.

Kicking the ground, Nesat attacks Johanne.

– Nakri, we'll go on too!

– Yeah!

Following Nesat, Krovahn and Nakri tried to attack Johanne. Johanne strummed a cord of *Johanne's Harp*.

Then that timbre turned into a wave and attacked them.

– Guah!

– Uuh!

– Kyaah!

Krovahn, Nakri and Nesat, those three, were blown away by the sound wave.

– ... shit!

Krovahn fell on his backside on the floor, then tries to get up as he picks up *Orthros Liberio* that fell from his hand while spitting out a swear.

Thereupon, Johanne touched *Johanne's Harp*.

What flowed out is different from before.

It wasn't just a sound, it was a proper melody.

In line with that, Johanne began to sing.

It was just like a concert.

A voice calls out to Krovahn who knits his brows as if saying *what the hell is she planning?*

– Krovahn, behind us!

It's the voice of Nesat.

– Huh...?

What was there when looking back were the believers of the Holy Church that should have been defeated.

They raised the maces overhead, turning towards Krovahn.

– Uooh!!

Krovahn dodged that, rolling rapidly.

There's a lot of believers in the surroundings now and they noticed that they are being surrounded.

The followers approach the position of Krovahn and the others while swaying their bodies to the left and right in an eerie way.

– What the hell, these guys...!

– They are almost like zombies...

Following Krovahn who said so, Nakri put out her tongue in disgust.

She said zombies because their eyes don't feel alive.

However, there's something like murderous intent.

Each of the weapons they held swooped down on Krovahn, Nakri and Nesat.

– ... agh!

This time, with *Orthros Liberio*, Krovahn repelled the blow of the mace and said while pushing it back.

– Really, what the hell is this kind of thing!?

– ... they are being manipulated...

It was Nesat who said so as if muttering.

Nesat responds to the attacks of the believers with the *twin sword*, turning her gaze to *Johanne's Harp* that is in the hand of Johanne.

– I think the song and music of that woman are the cause of this, probably.

That voice seems to have reached Johanne.

– Ufuh, ufufuh, ahahahahah! That's correct.

Looking at the bewildered Nesat and the others, Johanne gave a loud voice and laughed.

– Those people, even if they fall and fall again, they will continue to rise until they kill you. Until my song and my music stop. Ahahahah, ahahahahahah!



Claire and Erika——.

And then, Hayato and Emilia who were running inside the grounds of *Puritaria* towards the hidden passage where the «Central Room» is and where Serivia and Liza seemed to be.

The two of them stopped their feet almost at the same time.

It's because they caught the figure of a woman walking from the front.

– President Claire!

Hayato stepped forward towards Claire.

Claire, who's walking slowly towards Hayato and Emilia, isn't different when they parted.

Deploying her own Dragoon type Hundred *Alisterion*, she covered with thick armor her body.

– Wait, Hayato. Something's wrong.

Grabbing the arm of Hayato, Emilia said.

– Wrong, you say...?

Hayato stopped his feet and turns his eyes to Claire.

What met his eyes behind her was the appearance of Erika as she ran.

She gave a loud voice.

– Kisaragi Hayato, Emilia Hermit!

When looking closely, Erika isn't armed, unlike Claire.

However, her body is full of bruises.

Her glasses got cracked as well, and her body staggered too.

– Erika-san, what happened!?

As soon as Hayato instinctively called out her, Erika lost the balance of her body and ended up falling to the ground. Still, she raised her face and shouted to Hayato and Emilia.

– Both of you, run away! Claire-sama is, now——

– Silence.

Claire turned her arm to the back and fired, she emitted a shock wave to Erika.

– Kyaah!?

– Vice prez!

Erika, who bounce backwards and rolled over the sandy ground of the moon, didn't answer the call of Emilia.

She can't move, she's in a facing down state.

– President, what are you!!

– Shut up desuwayo.

– Huh?

What met the eyes of Hayato who gave a step forward in the direction of Claire are the eyes of Claire that shine in golden color.

Immediately after that, the body of Hayato was blown away with a force that opens a number of holes in the walls inside the grounds of the Holy Church.

– Hayato!

Emilia screams, but there's no reply from Hayato.

Emilia couldn't confirm his condition from her actual position.

She wanted to check his state right away, but she can't move imprudently.

Because if she looks back, she doesn't know what will be done by Claire.

(Although I'm considerably exhausted because of the fight with Maruko and Luka, if it's an attack of that degree, I think I'll be okay... but still...)

Emilia shouted, glaring at the front of Claire with sharp eyes.

– Not only the vice prez, but even Hayato—why are you doing this!?

– Because they were a hindrance desuwa.

– ... a hindrance? wha—

At that time, Emilia finally noticed.

The eyes of Claire are dyed in golden color.

– Prez, by any chance, were you brainwashed by the Pope and became strange?

– Brainwashed? What are you saying masuno? I just wanted to talk with you

desuwayo, Emilia Hermit.

Saying so, Claire smiled with a grin.



At that time, the Earth was in the middle of a mess.

The ceremony of the space advancement of mankind——.

As a matter of course, Judal Harvey, the representative of Lunaltia Base Cooperative System, was suddenly attacked by a mysterious woman during his speech and the video was interrupted.

The chaos wasn't different even inside Little Garden that anchored in a place a little away from the harbor of the Sunshine State district in the United States of Liberia.

At any rate, the one who was also attacked is the company president of Warslan, the operating company of the school to which they belong to.

Including the anxiety about what's going to happen, it's unavoidable that commotion is spreading.

— This has really become a problem...

It was Charlotte who was in her lab inside Little Garden who said so amazedly.

What is displayed on the screen is something like a dubious document that was sent to countries and organizations around the world.

There's a site on the *net* in which the same sentences as those written on it are found, and it's said that it's spread in various places.

Those contents are:

——Currently, the moon base is under control.

——If they launch an attack or anything like that from the surface, immediately use satellite weapons and make them commence an attack on the surface.

And something like that.

(No no! “Satellite weapons”...)

Of course, there are reasons why Charlotte had an unexpected wry smile.

The idea of placing those laser weapons on the few satellites that float around Lunaltia Base was already proposed at the meeting of Lunaltia Base Cooperative System, thinking of them as anti-Savage forces above all.

It was cheaper than launching from the ground, it was easy to do and one of the reasons is because its feasibility is high.

In some cases, however, the satellites can attack the ground as much as they want, that’s why many countries opposed it at the UN and so it wasn’t put into practice by Lunaltia Base Cooperative System.

However, that writing had a link to a certain video.

It’s called the 『Hammer of God』 .

(Somehow, I have a bad feeling...)

Clicking on the link while feeling that uneasiness, a video is played where a beam of light comes down from the sky and crashes into the ground——.

The video that shows the destruction of a base that was underground was played.

(Hahaha.... With this, rather than being used as anti-Savages, isn’t this perfect as a ground attack weapon?)

It’s a beam attack with considerable power.

Whether it was actually fired from a satellite attack weapon or not, she didn’t understand it properly since the video is blurred.

She can’t discard the possibility that it’s from *energy* or it’s an edited video.

(... actually, if those shoot, can the current Little Garden stand against them?)

Without thinking, Charlotte makes a bitter smile.

Liza isn’t in Little Garden now.

(It may be better to raise the strength of the top glass for a while, right?)

The barrier of the top glass uses a lot of energy.

As a result, the strength was considerably lowered, but just in case, Charlotte decided to return it to its original state.

The next thing to do is to investigate the location of the base destroyed by the beam.

If that place really exists, there might be eyewitness information or something. Considering so, when checking the internet, there was a lot of eyewitness information and possible places where that was done.

There are also clips of beams and photographs of the “actual place”.

There were fakes of course, but there were also many authentic ones.

By collecting this information and making calculations from a positional relation, it was possible to estimate the place that was attacked in a matter of seconds, and it wasn't difficult for Charlotte to infer which artificial satellite fired the beam.

It quickly became clear that the satellite was one of the launched from Lunaltia Base as a communicator to *Puritaria* which is on the surface.

(After all, it's *Puritaria*, isn't it...?)

Speaking of what is expected, the development is as expected.

There is more than a dozen of satellites that Holy Church has launched from Lunaltia Base.

If all of them become attack weapons, the entire earth will be targeted——nonstop.

(It'd be nice to destroy all the satellite weapon attacks at the same time, or to take control of them at once, but that doesn't seem to be easy...)

At any rate, since they are still deprived of the control of Lunaltia Base, that problem comes before the satellites.

Next, Charlotte decided to contact Shuemei who's in the Strategy Analysis room.

Speaking of why Shuemei is in the Strategy Analysis room, Charlotte asked her for monitoring and communications as a person who can protect those——

she's a person who can convey confidential conversations.

Based on her experience so far, and by thinking about it, if it's her, then she can play that role.

– Shuemei, what's the situation? Has something progressed?

『No, nothing yet! All of the students of the Intelligence Department are beginning the analysis to try regaining control, but the present condition is uncertain!』

– I see...

That's inconvenient, right—.

After she muttered a small voice, Charlotte continued.

– In any case, there's no other way but to regain the privilege of the control of Lunaltia Base. Cooperate with Mei Mei and Chris who are on the moon and do your best with your body and soul.

『Yes』and just when Shuemei replied.

The 《emergency alarm》sounded abruptly.

Looking at the monitor, Charlotte spontaneously raised her voice.

– A HIGH ENERGY REACTION OVER LITTLE GARDEN!?

It's Shuemei who raised her voice in succession.

『A direct hit comes!』

After the sky shone furiously for an instant.

A big tremor hit Little Garden.

– Haha, to think they attacked here.

It's definitely an attack from a satellite weapon.

Charlotte was understanding so.

– I'm truly glad for increasing the strength of the top glass.

There was a voice hanging on Charlotte who muttered so.

『This seems to be a very bothersome situation, huh?』

When looking, the figure of Vitaly was displayed on one of her available monitors.

She herself appeared.

Charlotte replied to Vitaly.

– I know. If we don't regain control quickly, Little Garden might be attacked again.

It's a threat now.

Charlotte was thinking about the possibility that the crucial moment might be the next.

However, she didn't intend to yield.

Besides, it should be necessary to have time to accumulate *energy* before it fires the next beam.

(In the meantime, I hope we can manage somehow)

Charlotte knew that this was no more than an idealistic thought after all.

As if natural, Vitaly points out that.

『... but you can't get regain control so easily, hmm? Breaking through that security wall isn't that easy. It's possible that it'll take at least half a day — even several days, you know?』

– Cutting into the conversation like that, does that mean that you have a plan or something?

『... speaking of a plan, there might be a plan, yeah. However, it's a desperate one』

– What do you mean?

『This is what I mean』

– Wha—

Three of the symbols on the monitor displayed in front of her changed from red to green.

Red indicates an out of control state and green indicates a controllable state.

In other words, it means that they have regained the control of three of them in an instant.

Charlotte asks while showing an astonished look on her face.

– What on earth did you do?

『As you can see. I got over the barrier and grabbed control』

– However, that's too fast. Such a thing isn't that simple.

『Yes, of course』

Charlotte noticed that the color of fatigue can be seen on the expression of Vitaly who answered so.

Then, an alert sounded.

It's because her brain monitoring values are showing abnormal values.

With that, Charlotte is convinced.

– Vitaly... don't tell me that you...

『As you guessed, I used almost all the parts of my brain. In that situation, it's this much easy. Anyhow, it's because of the brain of a genius』

– That is, you did brain computing, am I right?

『... that's right』

In other words, the brain directly connected to the computer was fully utilized as a computing device and regained control.

Charlotte said, with a perplexed expression.

– ... if you do such a thing, then won't your brain burn off? It's even possible that you'll die.

『There's no lingering affection in this world without my beloved Judal. Besides, because I kind of died once. I'm not afraid of death. Besides, if I did this was because I just wanted to protect his sisters and Lunaltia Base that he left behind』

– Risking your life, this means you are taking sides with justice...

『Taking sides with justice? Don't say stupid things. I was just trying to do as I

like. Therefore, I'm not showing signs of accepting your orders』

– ... Vitaly...

『What?』

– You are already a wonderful member of Little Garden, you know.

『Those words, I wanted to hear them from the mouth of Judal』

Vitaly on the monitor continued her words, dropping a smile in self-deprecation.

『Now, let's try concentrating a little』

Along with those words, the figure of Vitaly disappeared from the monitor.

Then the reds on the screen change to green one after another.

It was proof that they were regaining one by one the control of Lunaltia Base.



– What do we do with these guys? If we don't cut their bodies right in half, they don't look like they'll stop.

While forcing back the attacking believers with *Duo Varga*, Nakri raised her voice as if she was troubled.

– Fuck! If it has become to this, we have no choice but to do it, right!?

Although they are enemies, they are just being manipulated, after all.

The want to avoid killing as much as possible, but since there's no other way, Krovahn tried to prepare himself for the worst.

– There's a way——to stop them.

It's Nesat who affirmed so.

Her eyes are gazing at the musical instrument that Johanne has in her arm——her Hundred *Johanne's Harp*.

– I think that the believers are moving with the sound of that harp.

That song should be just a support to it.

– Ugh, as if she was like a *Necromancer*...

Nakri muttered with an expression like biting a bug.

After her, Krovahn said.

– ... in short, by stopping that sound and song, those guys will stop moving, huh. If so, Nakri.

– Yup, I got it! Haaa!

After Nakri knocked down the surrounding believers, she saw a gap and threw *Duo Varga* towards the harp of Johanne.

The distance is 100 meters approximately.

The two weapons approach rapidly.

... however, Johanne isn't showing an agitated look.

On the contrary, she stopped her hand for a moment and smiled, then strummed the strings of the harp with her fingers again.

And then, a wide area barrier is deployed to wrap her body and sends *Duo Varga* flying.

– Damn, that being the case— —

Krovahn, who thought it was a direct attack, accelerated using *energy*— —and tried to assault with *Orthros Liberio*, approaching Johanne.

When Johanne strums the strings again, the body of Krovahn suddenly stopped in the air.

– ... wha, what's this?

– Ufufu.

While laughing scornfully, Johanne strums the string with her fingers once again.

Thereupon, waves of *energy* are released from her body and end up sending the body of Krovahn flying.

The body of Krovahn hits the wall.

– Shit, how am I unable to get near her!?

Saying that, the opened eyes of Johanne shine in golden color, she began to play a different melody than before.

Going along with it, Johanne begins to sing.

And then— —.

– Wha...

– What, is this...?

The feet of Krovahn and Nakri have stopped moving.

– ... kuh... me too...

Apparently, that was the same for Nesat.

– Dammit, move!

Shouts Krovahn.

He tries to move, putting strength into his whole body, but he doesn't move.

During such thing.

– Kyaaah!

The shriek of Nakri went up.

– Hey, what's wrong!?

Because she wasn't in his line of sight, he doesn't know what happened.

Because of that, Krovahn could only shout.

– Hey, Nakri!

– Hyaah! Aaah!

Then again, he heard screams.

Receiving a direct hit of a believer's swung mace, Nakri fell on the floor.

Other believers continue to swing their maces, aiming at Nakri.

However, Krovahn doesn't understand the situation.

– Hey, what are you doing!? Stop!

Still, the believers didn't stop their hands.

Johanne never stopped singing or playing.

– Aaah! Uaah!

Nakri continues screaming as she's kicked and beaten with weapons over and over again.

(Shit, it can't be helped if this continues!)

As things are, it's unlikely that they can get in touch with Mei Mei.

Even Nesat seems to be the same.

(... if it's the me of now, then I shouldn't rampage)

He's sure that he can control the ability of the Variant.

Believing so, Krovahn decided to release the strength of the Variant.

– Uoooooooooooooooooooo!!

Simultaneously with the yell.

The pair of eyes of Krovahn dye in golden color.

– ... Krovahn...

Immediately after Nesat turned worried eyes towards Krovahn.

– Ufufu, doing such a thing is useless, you know.

Stopping the song, Johanne said.

– In the first place, my songs and melodies are things that influence your Variant Virus. The more you manifest your strength, the stronger the power of my music becomes.

– Guuh... uuh, dammiiiit...!

Looking at Krovahn who shows a vexing look, Johanne lifts the corners of her mouth to provoke him.

– Fufufu, you want to save her, correct? In that case, be my slave.

Saying so, and at the same time as her eyes shine.

– Wha——

The melody played by Johanne changed again.

Going along with it, Johanne begins to sing.

Then, the arms of Krovahn started to rise arbitrarily.

– What the...?

It's not just Krovahn.

Nesat goes through the same.

– No way, she's manipulating...?

– Ufufu, that's right.

Stopping the song, Johanne answers.

– Devote yourself completely to me. Then you two and that girl too will be saved. If you don't, then that girl will die.

– FUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUU— — —ck!

If he loses focus, not only his body, but also his consciousness will be taken for real.

If that happens, then hell' become a puppet of Johanne like the surrounding believers.

That's the same for Nesat.

(... what's the right thing to do?)

Should I do this rather than let Nakri be killed like this?

The moment when such thought passed through the mind of Nesat.

A dense-like sound sounded in that place.

(... what, was that just now...?)

It wasn't the sound of an explosion.

It's a big noise.

Nesat isn't the only one who had her attention attracted to that sound.

Johanne also stopped the music and the song, looking around the room with a dumbfounded appearance.

Her eyes are thin again and regain their original color.

The next thing they heard was music.

At first, it's a small sound, but the volume gradually increases and gets louder.

– ... is this...

Nesat is amazed due to that sudden thing.

Staring in wonder like her, Krovahn mutters.

– Kirishima Sakura and Kisaragi Karen... right?

– Yup...

Nesat nodded.

There's no doubt that Kirishima Sakura and Kisaragi Karen were singing a song at the ceremony of the space advancement of mankind and was being heard now.

It's the same song they were listening while guarding.

– Moreover, the body...

Following Nesat who said so, and unlike a while ago, his body was free to move.

– Yeah——if it's like this, then I can defeat her!

Krovahn glares at Johanne.

– What the, why is this...

Johanne was showing an upset look.

The song as well as the fingers playing the strings of the harp stopped, and of course, the movement of the believers was also stopping.

The voice of a woman that covers that song is heard.

『Can you hear me, everyone!?!』

– This voice is...

– ... Mei Mei...?

Following Krovahn who raised his voice, Nesat muttered.

『That's right, it's Mei Mei!』

Unlike the song that suddenly appeared out of nowhere, that voice comes from the receiver attached to the Variable Suit.

Krovahn asks.

– This song, did you do it?

『It wasn't just me. It's the effort of Dr. Charlotte and everyone of Little Garden!』

It was the voice of Charlotte on Earth that came after Mei Mei.

『Sorry for the late. Although I was grasping the main situation, it took a while to regain control of the system of Lunaltia Base and steal it from *Puritaria*—— but, with this, the song and the effect of the harp should be suppressed to the minimum』

– ... that's right. In short, that music is crushed by the other music.

『Something like that』

Krovahn who heard that reply gazed at Johanne one more time, showing a smile with a grin.

– That saved us. I guess this wouldn't happen in a tournament or the like, but in this situation, anything goes. Let's go, Nee-chan!

– Got it—*—TRACE ON!*

Nesat creates a floating battery with *Truth Eye* and shot continuous beams from there.

– Kuh...

Johanne dodged them with hair's breadth jumps and after she landed, she touches *Johanne's Harp* again.

It's Krovahn who approaches there.

– ... I am not going to lose in a place like this.

The eyes of Johanne are widely opened and got dyed in golden color.

At the same time, the strong feelings of Johanne flowed into Krovahn.

(This is...)

That's her— —.

It was a memory when Johanne was 12 years old.

– Millis, come over here.

– Yes.

It appears that the real name of Johanne seems to be Millis.

Millis liked to listen to music.

Eventually, she came to like singing songs and playing instruments.

Especially her favorite instrument, the harp, which was her grandmother's specialty.

Millis took lessons in harp with her grandmother and started to strum it quickly.

And Millis was frequently singing songs while doing musical performances.

Even after her grandmother died, she always— —.

The holidays where her father is at home— —.

When she was singing and doing musical performances in her room, he ended up getting mad because she was noisy, especially when he was doing remaining work at home, so she went outside in days like that, singing while doing musical performances.

Her audience is empty.

Her songs and performances weren't that good.

It was Serivia who was on a pleasure trip in various countries as an executive of the Holy Church at that time who happened to pass by chance there.

Serivia, who heard by chance the song of Millis, stopped her feet on the spot and didn't move from that place until the songs were over.

And then, at the same time as the songs are over.

– Your songs had an immense effect in my body.

Smiling sweetly, Serivia said.

– What is your name?

– It's Millis...

– I see... Millis, if you like, would you please sing at my place next time?

Then Serivia told her that she's an executive of *Puritaria*.

Several days later.

Visiting the church of the Holy Church, Millis sang in front of Serivia again.

It's a hymn what she sang.

It's what she thought of to delight Serivia.

After the song was over.

Serivia said with a satisfying smile.

– Millis. Your songs are really the best. I wonder, would you work here, if you like?

That is, to become a musician of the Holy Church.

– Of course!

Deep down her, she was considering that it would be great to do music all the time.

In fact, it came true like this so quickly.

It's inevitable for Millis to be happy.

– I will do my best for you!

Doing her best for the person who said to her that her songs and musical performances are the best.

Millis thought so from the bottom of her heart.

The father and mother of Millis didn't think that the musical performances and the songs of their daughter were that good.

They were that much surprised, and regarding that invitation, of course they didn't oppose to it.

Because they were believers of the Holy Church.

They were pleased to that extent that it was a great joy for them that their daughter could become an employed musician of *Puritaria*.

After becoming a musician of the Holy Church.

Millis sang songs while performing with the harp at meetings and the like.

At first it wasn't that much, but as she gradually sang, people started to gather.

Among them, there were people so moved that shed tears.

She moved people who weren't believers that ended up becoming believers.

Millis had grown to the point she was praised extravagantly by the miracle musicians in the *Puritaria* headquarters.

— Today was very good too.

As soon as the meeting ended, Serivia said so and kissed the forehead of Millis.

— In that case, a reward.

She sang. She performed.

As she continued and continued further, her ability went up.

People are fascinated by the songs and music of Millis.

It was as if looked like brainwashing.

It was very pleasant and satisfying to Millis.

(More, more, I want to fascinate a lot of people with my music)

When will that day be? She was thinking so.

That day came when a couple of years have passed since Millis became a musician of *Puritaria*

The eyes of Millis who's playing the harp were shining in golden color.

The mouth of Serivia who was watching that figure moved.

— Finally, the time has come.

Thereupon, Krovahn came to notice.

(I see, this is, that kind of thing...!)

That reminds him of the song of Kirishima Sakura.

Kirishima Sakura was transformed into an artificial Variant by Vitaly, and because of that song, he heard that she can have an influence on the Variant Virus.

The same thing happens right now.

In other words, Millis was given little by little the Variant Virus from Serivia with kisses on the forehead, increasing her ability as a Variant.

That's until a certain day.

All of a sudden, Serivia asked Millis.

– Why do your songs attract lots of people? Do you know the reason?

– Eh...?

Before the sudden question, Millis stares in wonder.

That would be natural as well.

It was because she never thought she would be asking such question.

– That's because my songs touch the heart of the people——

– Your songs are certainly beautiful. However, originally it wasn't possible for you to attract so many people to this extent.

Serivia said so, interrupting the words of Millis.

– Please wait, Serivia-sama. What are you saying...?

Naturally, Millis was feeling shaken.

Mercilessly there, Serivia tells the truth.

– Millis, your songs can attract a lot of people because you own the《Miraculous Power》and not because you are a musician. And, is this me who gave you the 《Miraculous Power》.

Saying so, Serivia kissed the forehead of the dumbfounded Millis.

– By giving favor to you in this way, my《Miraculous Power》was spread to you.

Through that power, you mesmerized many people.

– In other words, if I don't receive that《Miraculous Power》, then I can't attract a lot of people with my songs and performances? Is that what Serivia-sama wants to say?

– Yes, I guess it's impossible now.

– That sort of thing— —.

Can't be, is what she wanted to say.

Because she also had pride.

So, Millis decided.

– If so, then please let me try it.

Telling her thanks to the person she was indebted up to now, Millis decided to leave from the *Puritaria* headquarters on that day.

While touring around the country, she sang songs, she became a minstrel.

When she sang, a lot of people gathered.

Some people were deeply moved and shed tears.

However, one month, two months, three months, four months, as times goes forward, the reaction gets worse.

When Millis sang, even at the big square of the castle town that was crowded, the audience was becoming sparse now.

(Is this reality? Without the miraculous power, is this what I am?)

When the audience disappeared, she covers her face that is with too much despair with both hands, then began to shed tears.

A woman approaches here.

– ... how unsightly.

It was Serivia who said so, standing in front of Millis.

– But, I said it, right? “The power of your songs is because of the miraculous power”.

– Serivia-sama...

Serivia kisses the forehead of Millis who raised her head.

And then, she gently started talking to her.

– If you want to be in the limelight again, then come back to me. If you do that, then I'll give you the miraculous power again.

– ... Serivia-sama.

– Instead, you are going to listen to what I say from now on... do you agree?

The eyes of Serivia who asked so were dyed in golden color.

Millis nodded after staring absent mindedly at the eyes for a few seconds.

– ... yes.

– Then, from this day onwards you are Johanne.

– Johanne.

– Yes, Johanne.... You will serve me as one of the big four of Pope Serivia as Johanne... understood?

Johanne answered, nodding again to that question.

『I already have no choice but to continue receiving the favor and follow the orders of Serivia-sama! 』

『If I don't do so, then I will feel despair like that day!』

『That's why, I cannot afford to lose...!』

He can hear the voice of her heart.

(She's completely brainwashed, huh)

It doesn't matter he says, he won't be able to persuade her.

Therefore, he has to defeat her.

– I don't know what you heard, but even if you protect her here, Serivia's going to disappear before you no matter what, you know.

The accelerated Krovahn instantly approached Johanne and slashed at her with *Orthros Liberio* before she touched the instrument.

With that, the body of Johanne is blown away to the wall.

– Kuah!

Thereupon, Johanne ended up losing consciousness.

– It looks like it ended with this.

– ... yup.

Nesat was looking at Johanne with a complicated look.

– She's a very pitiable person.

– Nee-chan, could you see it?

Nesat nodded.

– The one who's bad is the Pope.

– I agree. Therefore, we're not going to kill her. Even though Nakri suffered damage.

Saying so, Krovahn turns his eyes to Nakri who collapsed.

– ... by the way, Nee-chan. I entrust to you the rest. If it's Nee-chan, then this person won't be able to run away even if she recovers consciousness.

– Yup, got it. Krovahn will, to the machine—

– Oh right. That goes first.

Nesat creates a chain of *energy* using *Truth Eye* and restrains Johanne.

Following that, Nesat was also restraining the other believers of the Holy Church in the same way.

There, with a sidelong glance, Krovahn swung *Orthros Liberio* that was loaded with *energy* downward the control machine.

Because of that, the machine is blown off instantly.

– This settles it, right?

And Krovahn who was surrounded by the believers of *Puritaria* headed to the position of Nakri who continued receiving attacks.

Nakri lied face down on the floor.

Still, her shoulders were still moving up and down weakly.

– Hey, Nakri. Are you alright?

– Yeah, somehow...

In response to the call of Krovahn, Nakri answers raising her face.

Nonetheless, her body is exhausted.

Looks like she can't stand up with her own strength.

– It's not thanks to me. It's thanks to everyone of Little Garden. At any rate, if it wasn't for the song of Kirishima Sakura and Kisaragi Karen, there's no mistake we'd have died.

While talking about that, Krovahn makes sure to embrace and rise up the upper body of Nakri.

– ... you're right. We'll have to thank everyone properly when we get back.

– Yeah, that's right—

Krovahn answers while nodding.

– Before that, let's report to Mei Mei first.

– ——this is the last of them.

Right after confirming that Nesat finished restraining the last believer, Krovahn decided to contact Mei Mei.

– Hey, Mei Mei. Can you hear me? Somehow, thanks to all of you, we finished here.

『Yes, I hear you』

When Krovahn sent the transmission, a reply from Mei Mei returned immediately.

『Everyone, we really really appreciate what you've done』

– Has the ceremony venue been released with this?

『Yes! However...』

– ... however, what...?

『We haven't got a call so far of Hayato-sama and the others who headed towards Liza-sama who's being chased by Pope Serivia...』

Mei Mei informs that when they got in touch last time, Kisaragi Hayato and Emilia Hermit defeated Luka and Maruko, the apostles of Pope Serivia in a fight.

『However, because there is evidence that a part of *Puritaria* section has been blown away for some reason, I think that it may be due to that that communication can't be done. Mei Mei is very worried that in addition to that, something has happened...』

– Hey, Krovahn. Can I leave Nakri to you?

Nesat was listening to the story of Mei Mei with a sudden quiet expression.

– Nee-chan, what is, so suddenly... ah, don't tell me that you are going to see the situation, huh?

– Yup.

Nodding, Nesat answers.

– I still can fight and I think I can go and take a look.

– ... uh huh. I see.

Krovahn dropped an astonished-like smile with a puff.

– In other words, Nee-chan is concerned about that guy, right?

– Th-that guy...?

– Kisaragi Hayato, you know.

– ... that's...

Looking at the figure of Nesat who's at a loss for words and hangs her head as it dyes deep red, Krovahn hurriedly said.

– Ah, sorry. It's not like I intended to make fun of Nee-chan or anything. I think it's fine if you do as you like and leave Nakri to me. However—

– ... however?

– Be careful. That Pope is unmistakably not ordinary.

– ... yeah, got it. Krovahn, take care of Nakri.

– Sure. Take care, nee-chan.

– ... yup.

Nesat realized while she nodded so.

– Mei Mei, can I go?

She hasn't taken the acknowledgement from Mei Mei yet.

『Well, certainly Nesat-san has barely consumed her *vital* and *energy*, so there's no problem. Or rather, that really helps us, but as Krovahn-kun said, please be really careful, okay?』

– Yes, I know. Is there data of the place where the last communication took place?

『Yes, I will send it now』

Nesat confirmed the data sent by Mei Mei and created an external floating device that resembled a *Space Ride* using *Trace Eye*.

She's considering that she can arrive faster with that.

– Well then, I'll go.

Saying that, Nakri murmured in the arms of Krovahn while fixedly staring at the flying figure of Nesat who kicks the ground using *energy*.

– ... Nesat, she went to where Kisaragi Hayato is.

– Yeah.

And, Krovahn replied, nodding.

– We are going to return to Little Garden section after this. Because we regained control of Lunaltia Base. The recovery equipment should be moving as well.

– ... it's love, right?

– Huh?

With those sudden words, the eyes of Krovahn turn into dot.

– What are you talking about, Nakri? Why are you saying something so weird?

– ... it's about Nesat.

Saying that, Nakri smiled sweetly.

– Nesat never moved like that except for us. Which means it can't be other thing than love, that's what I think.

– ... oh, that's what you meant. Well, I guess you are right.

Nakri, who heard those words, said to tease him, showing her white teeth.

– Even the dullard Krovahn is aware of the feelings of Nesat.

– Who are you calling dullard!? But still...

His older sister has an obvious strange look in front of Kisaragi Hayato.

No, she gets weird even when the name of Kisaragi Hayato comes out or they talk about him.

Even Krovahn is already aware of it.

– So, has Krovahn noticed that I like you?

– What?

A sudden confession.

As is obvious, Krovahn didn't understand **that**.

Because of that, he can't understand the meaning of the question.

He can't catch up with his thoughts either.

– Ah, err, wait a moment. What are you saying so suddenly?

He finally understood the meaning of that question, it seems.

In a twinkle, the cheeks of Krovahn get dyed red.

– As I thought, that reaction.... You didn't notice. Well, I knew that.

Tee-hee, Nakri said, smiling with mischief.

– I. From long ago— —. I always loved Krovahn since the day he came to save me to the mansion of the Mayor of Chenan city who bought me, you know?

– I'm telling you... what are you saying...?

– Say, Krovahn. Does Krovahn like me?

– Well, that's something...

Being embarrassed, he can't match his eyes with hers.

Krovahn continued his words while touching her cheek.

– ... it must be remembered that you are my cousin, you're like my younger sister, so things like boyfriend and girlfriend, I don't know that well yet, I mean...

– Things like that are good too, but do you like me or dislike me—just answer that—

– That's so cunning, you know...

– Come on, come on. Do you like me? Or dislike me?

– Well, of course that I... love... you... but...



– Ehehe... thanks, Krovahn.

In the arms of Krovahn, Nakri smiles very happily.

– ... I'm satisfied now that you answered just that.... with that, let me show you how I like you more from now on.... And... being... real... lo...vers...

– Looks like she used all her strength, huh.

Feeling relieved, Krovahn sighs and looks at the face of the fainted Nakri.

– ... why is she having such a happy face?

It's a happy face that seems to be unlikely to be thought that the cause is that she fainted because she suffered damage from the enemies.

While showing a shocking appearance, Krovahn stands up with Nakri in his arms.

A sudden communication enters there.

『Did you finish your conversation?』

– No way, Mei Mei was listening to our conversation—— The calmed down Krovahn was taken aback with the voice of Mei Mei and raised his voice as his face is dyeing bright red.

『Ufufu, what a lovely girlfriend-san has made Krovahn-kun, Mei Mei is very happy, you know. That is also true for Nakri-chan if I say so』

– We aren't that yet, you know!?

『But, do you intend to do that, correct?』

– Intend to do that, you say...

Unintentionally, Krovahn ended up being at a loss for words.

And then he said, pouting his lips.

– ... even if we are together, such a thing is too soon for us.

『Well, I am saying this since I am an *automata*, but I don't think you have to go slower or faster or anything like that. Because you don't know how and

when life is ——』

Those words come from her own circumstances.

She suddenly lost her life.

The very things she could do and wanted to do.

Everything ended up suddenly being taken away.

Krovahn probably doesn't know about that at all.

But there was something that was transmitted that was backing up those words, and even from the current situation, he could understand the meaning of those words.

Nakri may have conveyed so because she had that sort of feelings.

For some reason or another, he thinks so.

Krovahn said with a tender smile, looking at the face of Nakri.

— ... certainly, it might be so.

『I am glad if you understand. And as for your wedding, please invite me to it』

— Hey, Mei Mei. What are you saying...!!

『Ah, I am sorry, I went a little over the top』

Teheh, while sticking out her tongue at the other side of the communication device, Mei Mei continues.

『But the two of you are like my family. That blessing makes me very happy and I want to celebrate that as much as possible』

— Family, huh.... Good grief, saying something like that when you are looking after us arbitrarily.

He suddenly thought what he said.

——Family.

It doesn't feel bad, just a little embarrassing.

『Ahaha, I am sorry. But but, this feeling is genuine』

— Okay, okay. We're returning at once.

『Roger. Please come back safely you two. Because we have properly prepared futons waiting for you』

– Alright.

Krovahn answered and rushed out towards Little Garden section as he held Nakri in his arms as she is.

Chapter 4: Queen and princess *The awakening of Emilia* Two lips

Around the time when Krovahn and co. are trying to withdraw to Little Garden section.

In the plaza in front of the temple in the grounds of *Puritaria*, Emilia and Claire deployed their armaments and were glaring at each other.

– ... so, what do you want to talk with me?

– I want to talk about after I came to the moon desuwa. During that time, did you have any progress with Kisaragi Hayato?

– ... progress? What do you mean?

Emilia said taking that as provocation and knitted her brows in curiosity.

– There are no reasons to progress and the like, you know. Since the olden days—nothing has changed from 10 years ago. Hayato and I were always connected by destiny.

– Destiny... you say?

– That's right, destiny.

Emilia continues her words showing a smile with a grin in regard to Claire who knits her brows in irritation.

– I was able to meet again with Hayato. And to be together with him like this.

– ... that is, in what way is that okay masuno?

– In what way...?

What on earth are you saying? Emilia stares at the dissatisfied Claire.

Thereupon, the eyes of Clare shone noticeably furious and emitted a fluorescent color.

– What kind of destiny are you talking about!?

Together with the shout.

A strong *energy* was released from the body of Claire.

– I was born in the Harvey family and sacrificed myself for the Harvey family. And then I lost my mother, my father and my brother, then my little sister and the person I love were snatched away by someone else... if my destiny is that sort of thing, then I will go beyond my own destiny masuwa!

Declares Claire while staring at Emilia as she is.

Emilia was taken aback when receiving the *energy* released from her body.

– ... no way, this *energy*...

– You finally realized?

Claire said showing a smile that was elated with success.

– Now, as you thought, it's the *energy* of Kisaragi Hayato desuwa.

Emilia who heard that answer enquires Claire with a bewildered expression on her face.

– Since the president got the ability from Hayato before, it should have passed a considerable time, right? At that time, you were using that power, so the reason why there's so much of it remaining is...

– ... I got it before coming to the moon desu.

– Before coming to the moon, you say?

– Yes, it was when Kisaragi Hayato came to my parent's home desu. At that time, Kisaragi Hayato and I spent a hot night in the same bed desuwa.

– Wha...

Claire continues her words with a calm and composed look in response to Emile who showed discomposure towards those words.

– ... lately, when Kisaragi Hayato is with you, hasn't he been distant in front of me?

– That's...

– Kisaragi Hayato didn't want you to sense that he spent a hot night with me, isn't it?

– Kuh...

With a lot of anger, Emilia asked while gritting her teeth and clenching the fists of both hands strongly.

– ... so, what does the prez want to say? That the advantage is on your side or something?

– Why desuno? Are you jealous desuno?

– No, that's not it! I'm asking why the prez is doing this. If the prez has the advantage in the first place, then there's no need for you to talk to me or to have a fight with me, right?

– Kuh...

In response to the words of Emilia, Claire unintentionally showed a vexing expression.

Because of that, Emilia said, showing a triumphant smile.

– Oh, bull's eye. After all, the prez is more flustered than I am. Then, is it possible that you got possessed by the Pope? And that's why the prez is in that sort of state n—— – Shut up desuwayo!

– ... ah.

Emilia stopped with an E *barrier* deployed in the palm of her hand the beams fired from the six floating batteries that float around the body of Claire.

And then, she declares to Claire.

– If you feel like that, then even I have something to say.

The eyes of Emilia shine in golden color and a strong *energy* is released from the whole body.

– In the first place, whatever the relation between the prez and Hayato is, I won't change anything. Even if Hayato likes the prez, I'll never give up. Because I only have Hayato. Since 10 years ago, I've continuously lived thinking just that about Hayato. If it's about the feelings towards Hayato, then I won't lose to anyone. Never!

That said, the body of Emilia released even more *energy*, a sky-blue *energy*

was enveloping that body.

(Is this, no way...)

Looking at Emilia who appeared from inside the particles, Claire becomes speechless.

Even though her appearance almost didn't change, the *energy* released from the body is quite powerful.

That *energy* is transmitted to her body.

(This is Emilia Hermit's full armament—)

Chills ran through the spine of Claire.

(Am I feeling terror masuno?)

The power of that *energy* is to that extent that she feels so in her whole body.

— — — now that it has become to this, let's fight each other with all our strength—. The only thing is that if I go all out, I'm not sure that I can control myself.

If she releases her full strength, then that means she's going to unleash the ability of the Variant.

But—.



– That’s, you are the same as me now desuwa!

Despite being overawed by the strong *energy* released from the body of Emilia, Claire is clad in full armament.

Both have unleashed the ability of the Variant.

And then, full armament.

It’s an all-out battle without excuses.

– ... okay then, shall we begin?

– Yes, let’s begin desuwane.

They wagered Kisaragi Hayato— —.

— —No.

This is the battle of two women to prove the strength of their own feelings.

That curtain is now opened.

– Well then, allow me to go as I declared! HAAAAAAAAAAAAAA— — —!

Emilia is the first to attack.

She strikes Claire with a huge blade attached to the sword she created in her hand as she releases a golden light from her eyes.

Claire fired beams in succession from the six floating batteries that float around her own body to counter her.

Emilia approaches Claire while dodging the beams.

She projected the big sword, but it was dodged by Claire who made a jump.

Claire turned behind Emilia as she is and took her back, then fired beams from the gun of her right hand.

Emilia turns around and sticks out one hand, causing the beam to extinguish.

It looks like Emilia has deployed an N *barrier*.

Then Emilia swung downward the large sword on the spot.

– Yaaah!

What she released is a big blade of *energy*.

– ... hmmm.

Claire pushes out both hands before her to stop the blow with an *E* barrier.

To Emilia, it went as she supposed.

Emilia accelerated with *energy* and gets near Claire.

She raises overhead the big sword.

– Haaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

It's a direct attack with the big sword that is clad in *energy*.

An *E barrier* might not defend against it.

Claire thought so and rapidly flew very high in the sky using the propulsion device.

(What the desuno, that speed... and also, that power is...!)

When looking, there was a huge hole in the trace where Emilia swung the big sword.

If she receives a direct hit of that thing, there's no mistake that the battle will end with a single blow.

Even if she deploys an *E barrier*, it's probable that she'll have to bear a lot of damage.

Thinking so, she was shuddering.

(Still, I can't lose— —I can't lose desuwa!)

The eyes of Claire strongly released a golden light again.

– Petals!

Twelve small floating batteries are shot from the 6 floating batteries.

Like at the time of the duel with Kisaragi Hayato, if she can penetrate the *N barrier* that is deployed surrounding the body of Emilia, then Claire got what she was wishing for.

For the time being, she attacks Emilia, thinking that she would like to gain time by disturbing her.

However, it didn't go as she expected.

— Wha— —

Emilia reduced the large sword into particles and duplicated the 12 small floating batteries that Claire released with *Arms Shroud* and deployed them around her body.

— Go!

Together with the cry of Emilia, her 12 small floating batteries start to move.

12 flying objects collide with 12 flying objects in midair— —.

A total of 24 small floating batteries shoot lasers to destroy each other, and immediately after they are extinguished.

Emilia creates a rapier in her hand once again and attacks Claire who just landed.

She unleashes attacks one after another.

Claire continued dodging those slashes and by seeing a gap using the ability of the Variant she accelerated instantly— —and dealt a roundhouse kick to Emilia.

It was a fantastic direct hit.

The body of Emilia is blown away to a distant place.

(I can't let go of this opportunity masenwa!)

Claire immediately went after her.

— Petals!

She released the small floating batteries from the six floating batteries once again.

Flying to the side of Emilia who hit a distant wall, the 12 floating batteries start to shoot beams.

Unlike before, there shouldn't be enough time for Emilia to create small floating batteries.

On the contrary, it should be difficult for Emilia to move in that situation where she's continuously struck by beams——.

In the meanwhile, Claire replaced the six floating batteries with Buster Cannon and began to charge *energy*.

Of course, the muzzle of that aims at Emilia.

(I don't want to lose to Emilia Hermit——no, to Emilia Gudenburg——! I will absolutely decide this masuwa!)

Clare thinks in her mind.

Indeed, she herself never thought of falling in love so strongly and this much.

She remembers about the day when the data came from Charlotte for the first time and that day of the entrance ceremony.

And of course, the battle of the next day, the time of the《Operation: Bird in Cage》and the ones after that.

And then, when they returned together to her home.

At first, she wondered to herself why is that she feels her heart palpitating with such a guy.

Still, no answer was found.

She tried to tell herself many times that it wasn't like she was in love or something like that.

But, when she stands in front of him, her heart accelerates, feels suffocated, her body gets hot——.

And then a day she naturally realized that is herself who's not able to suppress such a condition.

So, she had no choice but to understand.

That she fell in love with him——and.

After meeting him, Kisaragi Hayato, a lot of things truly happened.

So many things that she doesn't know which one the direct cause is.

It may be that several things came one after another.

But, she likes him, she wants him for herself only, she wants him to look at herself only.

She doesn't want other women to take him.

She absolutely doesn't want to lose.

Those feelings, there's no doubt they are—.

— Yes! I am the《Absolute Invincible Queen》*Perfect Queen!* Be it a battle or love, I will never lose masenwa!

Claire once again bombarded with all her strength towards Emilia.

(This one should be able to go through the N *barrier!*)

However, the desire of Claire isn't delivered.

The thought of Claire was that she destroyed the barrier.

— It's a shame, prez.

— You, endured the bombardment—

Her body is worn-out.

The N *barrier* was penetrated.

Still, Emilia endured the bombardment.

— I'll finish it with this.

The figure of Emile appears in the soaring cloud of dust.

There's no weapon in her hand.

But, approaching in an instant—.

The figure of Emilia with her arm drawn back is reflected in the eyes of Claire, the color of despair spreads.

(I lost masuno?)

I lost my father.

I lost my mother.

I lost my older brother.

Even my sister and Kisaragi Hayato were taken by someone else.

(If that happens, to who am I going to rely on, how am I going to keep on living after this...?)

Everything was——.

I lost anything and everything.

The things I loved, the ones I loved.

I lost everything.

(Is this my destiny desuno?)

I hate——that destiny.

I want to go against it.

But——.

『I'm sorry, prez』

She heard a voice in her head.

It was the voice of Emilia Hermit.

『The feelings and the pain of the prez, I pretty much understand them. Still, I can't lose. Unlike me, there are people who support the prez a lot. And some of those yearn for you, isn't it? So, you'll never lose everything. But, for me, Hayato is everything——so I can't lose this fight!』

The heavy fist of Emile who released a violent golden radiance from her eyes was stuck into the abdomen of Claire.

(Persons who yearn for me, and support me...?)

Erika and Chris——.

The figures of her comrades of Little Garden cross her mind.

The body of Claire, which was sent flying vigorously behind, strikes a wall of rock.

(I didn't lose every...thing...)

The eyes of Claire return to their original color——.

Her consciousness was interrupted.

(Looks like she calmed down, huh)

Haa... haa... and the eyes of Emilia who cancelled the armament while breathing repeatedly were regaining their original color.

She approaches Claire who fell down, lying face down.

Although her armament state was cancelled, it seems she still has a little of *energy* remaining.

The ring of the arm sounds, it's an emergency alert regarding her *vital*.

(There's breathing, so will she be okay in this state for a while?)

Since her energy is completely cut off and the effect of the oxygen capsule became limited, there's a possibility that oxygen deficiency will immediately occur and die by suffocation.

... however, if there's *energy* left, the effect should last to a certain extent.

In the meanwhile, as a result of thinking that someone would come to retrieve them, Emilia decided to contact Charlotte who is the easiest person and the best to explain.

– Charlotte, can you hear me?

『Yeah, I hear you』

– The prez was brainwashed by Serivia, it turned into something serious. I was able to manage somehow to suppress her. So now, the prez, Hayato and Erika-san have fainted...

『We already grasped the state of Queen-sama and Hayato-kun. Incidentally, Emilia——you used the power of the Variant——and full armament, didn't you?』

– If I didn't do that, I couldn't have done anything.

『Well, I don't have the intention to reproach you. Rather, I'd like to compliment that you could control it well』

– Really, I did it just barely... but a little more and I wouldn't be able to control myself. Leaving that aside, come to get us fast. The remaining *energy* of the

prez is already a very small amount and if the effect of the oxygen capsule expires, she'll die. Even I'm staggering, so I think it's the best if a person brings back Hayato who lost consciousness like the prez.

– In that case, it's fine.

– Vice prez!?

– Why are you so surprised?

– Well, I was thinking that you were regaining your mind. When did you regain it?

– ... a bit ago. I also saw your fight with Claire-sama. But, I couldn't do anything to help...

– Vice prez...

– But, thank you for stopping Claire-sama.

Saying that, Erika approached Claire and carried her body.

– It's my duty to protect Claire-sama at times like this. I will bring you back, Claire-sama, in a hundredth of a second and faster.

– ... you say that, but the prez is worn-out too, isn't she? In this state, you won't last till Little Garden section.

– That, might be true but, both of us are like that, don't you think?

– Well, I can't object that.

『Both of you, feel at ease. We are already coming closer to pick you up』

「「Huh?」」

Gathering their voices, they turned their gaze to their surroundings.

It was Emilia who found the one coming there first.

– It's Nesat! And...

Emilia raised her voice, looking at the figure of Hayato held on the shoulder of Nesat, then began to run, kicking the ground.

– Hayato! Are you okay, Hayato!?

She got close to his side and called out to him, but there's no reply.

Hayato is completely fainted.

– ... Hayato...

Taking him away from Nesat, Emilia holds his body tightly.

Nesat was fixedly staring at their figures with a slightly sad expression on her face.

In the middle of that, Erika asks.

– By the way, why is Nesat here?

– Oh, um... when we finished our duties, and when consulting it with Mei Mei, I came to see the situation. Because we didn't know the situation over here...

『As I was able to grasp the latest situation on the way, I told her about it and requested her the withdrawal of you』

– It was that kind of thing?

Erika understood, listening to the complement of Charlotte.

– In other words, Nesat is going to bring us back?

Nesat nodded and murmured, turning her line of sight above her head.

– *Trace On.*

It was a manta type flying device that golden particles overflowing from her eye created.

Looking that, Emilia raises a happy voice.

– Oh! It looks exactly like the one I always use!

– ... I saved it when I saw it before.

– That's how it is! Thank you, thank you very much for coming, Nesat!

– ... not, at all...

– Then, let's hop on, Hayato.

Emile gets on the flying device, carrying Hayato on her back.

Looking at them while embracing mixed feelings, Nesat departed towards

Little Garden section, floating the flying device, carrying Erika who carried Claire on her back and Emilia who carried Hayato on her back.



– Hey, Fritz. Look that!

– Ah...

With the words of Latia, Fritz noticed that the brilliance of the ceremony venue is fading.

It looks like other Slayers who were outside also noticed it with the voice of Latia and the gazes and voices of other people who noticed it.

– It seems like **those guys** did it well, huh.

Those guys that Fritz mentions are of course Krovahn, Nakri and Nesat.

– Yup.

Latia nodded with a joyful expression.

Thereupon, the venue recovers the light.

– Oh, the electricity is back!

It appears that someone in there has restored it.

– Will we also get in and check the situation?

Saying that, Latia steps forward, and the *wireless ring* sounds.

It's not an emergency call.

It's just a call.

– Looks like it's from Mei Mei.

Saying so, Fritz opened the communication line.

Following him, Latia also opens a communication line.

『Can you hear me, Fritz-san, Latia-san?』

– Yeah, we hear *ya*, What's wrong?

It was Latia who replied.

『This is a status report to everyone』

Saying so with a cheerful voice, Mei Mei continues.

『I think you are aware of that already, but we finally regained about half of the control of the whole Lunaltia Base including the ceremony venue. However ——』

– ... however, what?

The color of anxiety shows on the expression of Latia due to the voice of Mei Mei that in a sudden transformation turned dark.

『Pope Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III is believed to be the mastermind of the incident and is currently missing——and the ones who went after her—— Hayato-san, Emilia-san, President-san and Vice-president-san received serious injuries and withdrawn to Little Garden section』

– WHAT!?

– How bad are their serious injuries?

Fritz asked, following Latia that raised a surprised voice.

『President-san, Hayato-san and Emilia-san lost consciousness... It's not something that will be harmful to their lives, but I think they can't return to the front for some time』

– Those three only received that amount of injuries? No way, their opponent was the Pope?

Continuing, it's Latia who inquired.

『Well, not directly, I think that's how you can say it, but it doesn't mean that it's something like that』

– Not directly, huh? What do you mean with that? I don't understand well the meaning of what you are saying, so can you tell me in detail?

『Err, apparently Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III has a certain ability to brainwash and control people. Because of that, the president was brainwashed...』

– Brainwashed? The Pope can do such a thing!?

『... However, it's not like she can brainwash and control at ease everyone at all times. Besides, it's a temporary and not a complete brainwashing based on direct contact——it seems that Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III must directly pour her Variant Virus』

– In other words, that means a kiss, huh...?

『That is correct』

Since they understood this and if they deal with her with multiple people, they'll be able to prevent it.

That's the idea of Dr. Charlotte and Mei Mei added another thing.

『Since you understood, there's a request for the two of you. I would like you to go back to the location of the *time machine* at the laboratory of Bill Harvey』

– Is that where the Pope is aiming at?

『... yes. So, in that place we had security guards dispatched from Warlsan, but we suddenly couldn't contact them. Therefore, I want you to go and see the situation』

They aren't able to take images of the surveillance cameras, and the satellite isn't under control of Little Garden.

It means that they don't know at all what is going on right now.

– Thinking from that situation, the probability of the Pope or a companion of hers being there is high, or something along those lines.

『We think the same too』

– Mei Mei, can I say something?

Fritz cut into the conversation when the talk of Latia and Mei Mei reached a stopping place.

『... what is it?』

– I thought that the conversation ended midway with Krovahn and the girls, but why is the Pope after the *time machine*...?

『Well, that's...』

『That'll be explained by me』

It was Dr. Charlotte who cut in the communication from the side as Mei Mei showed a troubled expression due to what would be the best way to explain it.

『However, please don't tell this to anyone yet, got it?』

Her tone is more serious than usual.

With that much, Latia and Fritz nodded with tension.

— Yeah—

— Of course.

『If so, allow me to explain. We already have a clear reason. She, Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III, it's an alien that came from a distant planet onto the Earth millions of years ago—moreover, her existence is like god itself of this world』

— Wha—

Latia is completely dumbfounded.

With an implausible look, Fritz asked back.

— ... Dr. Charlotte, that's not a joke, right?

『Even I find it unbelievable, but it looks like it's the truth. I heard through the communication device talking she herself with Queen-sama and the glasses vice president, and I've found and examined the evidence materials as well』

Charlotte informs them that there are paintings of more than a thousand years ago that depicted the Pope which is the same appearance of the present Serivia.

『I'll talk to you about the goal of the Pope based on what I mentioned. The time machine was completed by humans, so she can use it to return to the past—to her own planet』

Charlotte explained that the Pope has raised mankind over tens of thousands of years and that she handed out the Variant Virus to accelerate its speed.

— That's, in other words, in case that a person who was handed over the Variant Virus directly from Serivia was one of our ancestors, then the reaction value of the Hundred of those descendants is high?

『There's a high possibility that such a tendency is——just a tendency, after all. The higher your reaction value is, then the possibility is even higher』

Somehow, that doesn't make them feel better.

Fritz thought so with honesty.

– Nevertheless, to think that the Pope was an alien...

The body of Latia shivers.

It looks like the excitement and the fear of the encounter with an unknown person are mixed.

– But, we won't win fighting like we do, right? Even Hayato and the president suffered damage, didn't they? Then what should we do?

『The strategy to beat her is currently under planning. After all, the operation is monitoring... although, depending on the situation, there's a probability of fighting to keep her at bay』

『So, Latia-san, Fritz-san——and Aly-san and Wendy-san, the four of you who took action in an operation together, please head to the laboratory of Bill Harvey, the company president of Warslan Company』

Following Charlotte, Mei Mei said.

– What, together with Wendy and Aly you say!?

Latia raises a voice in happiness.

『Yes! If we think about the moment, 4 people are better than 2——so we were thinking that it would be better for the members of the operation to be together. We have already obtained approval from the United States of Liberia and Al-Salaam Company, and so they were reported about it』

– It's been a while since we acted together, Fritz-san, Latia-san.

It's Wendy who came closer while saying so.

– ... certainly, that's right, huh...

While answering, Fritz recalls.

Their first encounter was at the time of the《Operation: Bird in Cage》around a

year ago.

There, they fought together.

The second time was at the time of the *Third Attack* several months after that.

And so, this time will be the third time.

– I've heard the circumstances. I look forward to working with you.

– Yeah, me too.

– Yes!

Wendy nods towards Latia.

Continuing, Fritz calls out to Aly.

– We'll be under your care too, Aly.

– ... yeah, likewise.

After they shook each other's hands.

The four of them started moving towards the laboratory of Bill Harvey.



(...Emilia...)

Around 30 minutes have passed since Hayato and co. were brought to Little Garden section by Nesat.

Kisaragi Hayato dressed in his Variable Suit was in a room of Little Garden section.

Emilia is sleeping in a small room.

It's one of the relief rooms, he's sitting on a folding chair.

Hayato heard from Charlotte when he woke up in the next room about what happened while he was knocked down.

A battle between Emilia and the brainwashed Claire.

And after that concluded.

Emilia, along with Nesat who came there, and Erika who regained consciousness, carried him to this place——to Little Garden section.

However, Emilia collapsed almost at the same time they arrived at Little Garden section.

He heard from Charlotte that the reason is that she put into operation the ability of the Variant and the full armament.

This means that it's Variant Virus's fault.

Speaking of other things he heard, thanks to Krovahn, Nesat and Nakri, the Slayers of the ceremony venue were saved and released during the hour he was knocked down by Claire.

It's only been 30 minutes since they came back to Little Garden section.

——nonetheless, a lot of things made progress during that time.

The biggest of those things is that Latia, Fritz, Aly and Wendy who were guarding the front of the ceremony venue headed to the laboratory of Bill Harvey where the *time machine* is, the supposed place that Serivia headed to ——together with Liza.

Their primary objective is to destroy the *time machine*, preventing the goal of the Pope.

The second objective is to get back Liza.

The ultimate objective is the capture of the Pope.

Although they are four world-class Slayers, they aren't Variants and the opponent is that Pope.

On top of that, they were told that the Pope isn't human, it's an alien.

It's unbelievable, but that sort of story is real.

That being the case, aside from the first and second objective, it will be difficult to accomplish the ultimate objective.

There, Dr. Charlotte sent Nesat and Touka to that place just before Hayato woke up.

Touka, who doesn't get attacks by *energy* and has no Variant Virus in her body, it's thought that she will become the trump card to have the advantage on the fight with the Pope.

Hayato who heard such thought of Charlotte on the bed unexpectedly stood up,

– I'll go too.

He declared.

– Everyone are fighting, putting their lives on the line and yet, I can't just sleep in a place like this. So—

『Unfortunately I can't authorize that. Certainly, you'll be a great fighting power if you come out, but only if you are in a perfect condition. We don't know what'll happen hereafter. For the time being, leave it to your comrades and let your wounds to heal a bit here』

– ... understood.

Hayato withdrew obediently.

As Charlotte says, it's obvious that he should heal the wounds he received in the battle with Maruko and Luka and recover the depleted *energy*—and also the wounds he received with the blow of the attack of the brainwashed Claire.

Like the small room where Hayato was sleeping, the place where Emilia is sleeping now is also adjusted for indoor environments in such a way that the injuries and the *energy* of the Slayers are easy to recover.

There's no doubt that being here is the best.

『... well then, till later. If there's any change in Emilia or the situation changes, please call me. If there's something from here, I'll contact you from this communication device』

Saying so, Charlotte smiled with a grin.

『I forgot. There are no cameras installed in the room. So you can kiss or do whatever you like. If you do so, your recovery will speed up and your health will stabilize』

– Wh-what are you talking about, Dr. Charlotte! I’m not going to do such things!

『Hahahahaha, I’m joking, I’m joking. See you later』

Charlotte went out of the room while laughing pleasantly, looking at Hayato whose face was turning deep red and raised his voice.

Before long, he reached this moment.

(A kiss, huh...)

Remembering what Charlotte was talking about, Hayato turned his eyes to the sleeping Emilia.

Because he was told of kissing and the like, his line of sight is fixed to her lips.

He heard that the reason why Emilia collapsed was that she released the power of the Variant and used up her *energy* when fighting the brainwashed Claire.

In other words, it means that she’ll recover with a kiss.

(... ah, what am I thinking?)

Shaking his head, he decided to change his thoughts.

(Which reminds me, the president is sleeping in another room now...)

He’s concerned about the condition of her injuries, but he heard that Erika is at the side of the president. Although he feels that he wanted to go and see her condition, Hayato decided to stop, as he would be a hindrance if he goes.

Those aren’t large rooms, and if Emilia wakes up in the meanwhile, she’ll give him some words of complaint.

And if he leaves the side of Emilia, it’s because there are other things he should do.

(... after all, with what Charlotte-san told me, I should also go...)

That’s the conclusion of Hayato.

There’s no point in staying here, doing nothing.

He ended up feeling ridiculously conscious of Emilia and strange if he stays

here, and he's also worried about Fritz, Latia, Wendy, Aly, Touka and Nesat.

At any rate, the opponent is that Pope Serivia.

If he can be helpful, then he must be there.

Deciding so, Hayato stands up and tried to walk towards the door.

Then, on the direction of his back, the bed raised a creak.

He tries to turn around, then his arm is grabbed.

— — — Hayato.

That word reached his ears.

Looking back, Emilia was raising her upper body from the bed.

— Hayato, you woke up.

— That's my line.

Saying so, Hayato shows a smile.

Hayato was happy that Emilia woke up and is safe above all.

— Certainly, we are of equal status in this regard.

After saying so and smiling sweetly.

Emilia tried to go down the bed.

— Hey, are you alright? Don't push yourself.

— I'm, fine don't worry, ah... uwaah!?

Unfortunately, she wasn't exactly as she stated.

Emilia tried to go down from the bed and lost the balance of her body.

— Hey, you're not okay at all, isn't it...?

Catching the body of Emilia in his arms, Hayato said, exasperated.

She thinks from the bottom of her heart and is glad that he started moving, trying to help her.

— Ehehe, sorry...

Dyeing her cheeks feeling embarrassed, Emilia put out her tongue a little.

– To think that I completely exhausted my *energy* to this point.... It's embarrassing...

Looks like Emilia is in a state where the Variant Virus is still activated.

Cold sweat runs on her forehead, her breathing is rough too.

– But, the opponent was the president who rampaged, correct? I heard that from Dr. Charlotte that you worked hard to calm her down.

– Ah...

Listening the words of Hayato, Emilia remembered and asked.

– ... which reminds me, what about the prez?

– She's still unconscious. But Dr. Charlotte said that it wasn't a severe injury or something of that degree. Now Erika-san should be looking after her state at her side.

– ... is, that so...

Emilia, who heard the explanation of Hayato, turned down her eyes and put a serious look.

Maybe she succumbed to the feelings of remorse because she overdid it?

If so, it maybe it would be better to change the topic.

「Hey, Emilia」 「Say, Hayato」

Unexpectedly, their voices overlapped.

– Wh-what is it?

– ...Hayato... what...?

– Well, it looked like you were tormenting yourself or something like that. I was trying to ask if you want something to drink. There was a vending machine outside, so I'll go and buy one.

– No, there's no need.

After she shook her neck to the left and right,

– More importantly, Hayato...

– Wh-what...?

Hayato makes his heart accelerate because Emilia was fixedly looking up at him with a flushed face.

– Won't you... kiss me?

– Wha... what are you saying...

Dyeing his face bright red, Hayato raised his voice.

– Because it's the best to do so to recover...

– Well, you could say so, but...

What crosses his mind are the words of Charlotte just before cutting the communication.

You can kiss or do whatever you like. If you do so, your recovery will speed up and your health will stabilize.

Or something like that.

It looks like she was losing her patience because Hayato continued faltering.

– If you don't do so, then I'll do it.

Saying so, Emilia approached Hayato.

– No, wait!

In a panic, Hayato kept back Emilia with both hands.

– Why are you refusing me?

– E-even I have to prepare my heart, you know!?

– Then, prepare it.

– Eh——

– If preparations can't be done, then prepare it.

– If you tell me such a thing all of sudden...

... however, the situation is a situation.

He doesn't know what's happening now and what's going to happen from now on. There's no doubt that an early recovery of Emilia, the strongest fighting

force, is an important matter.

Although Hayato himself exhausted his *vital* and *energy*, so the Variant Virus isn't activated.

Therefore, there's nothing wrong with the kissing itself.

(If it's something that I can do, then should I do it?)

Also, Dr. Charlotte said that there's no surveillance cameras.

In the end, there's no problem to kiss.

– ... f-fine.

Hayato declared, resolving himself.

– Hayato... is going to do it!

Making a cheerful expression in a flash, Emilia clung to Hayato all of a sudden.

– Hey, if you hug me like that, then I can't kiss you...

– Oh, sorry...

Emilia raises her face, looking up at Hayato.

– You can kiss me with this, right?

Saying that, Emilia closes her eyes.

– Y-yeah...

Putting both hands on both shoulders of Emilia.

Hayato piled up his lips on the lips of Emilia.

– Hn... mmw, *kiss*, mmwh... *kiss*, mmw...

Tongue and tongue entwine, they continue a long kiss.

– Hnn.... Hayato... *kiss*, mmmwh, ... hnn haaa...

Before long, their lips separated.

What meets the eyes of Hayato is the drawing thread between their lips and the appearance of Emilia who's continuously breathing roughly beyond that.

– ... Emilia...?

– ... haaa, haaa...

Even if he calls out to her, the situation doesn't change.

Moreover, she looks very excited.

(I feel that this situation is a little dangerous...)

Maybe she's in a condition close to run wildly?

Even though he thought that she might calm down if they kissed, it appears that this ended up changing to the bad way.

Such a bad presentiment passed through the mind of Hayato.

– Say, Hayato...

– Hey, Emilia! Ah— —

Out of nowhere, and pressing the switch, Emilia put the Variable Suit in a removable state.

– What are you doing...?

Panicking, Hayato took off his eyes.

It's because the Variable Suit of Emilia that was hanging and covering the breasts, was being stripped off.

Because of that, the two jellylike swellings on the chest of Emilia were exposed.

Those were faintly reflected on the sidelong glance of Hayato.

– Hey, Hayato.... let's do more.

Saying so, she pulls him, grabbing his arm.

– Let's do more? What are you saying... hmm...?

Then, when he looked at her, the eyes of Emilia were dyed in golden color.

(This, after all, she's running wildly...)

He recalled when he went to the parent's house of the president.

At that time, it was really difficult to suppress it.

(Nevertheless, for Emilia to be in a state like this is...)

The battle with the president was probably difficult to that extent.

(Hmm, this is not the time to think about that. For now, I must do something with this situation...)

... but, what should he do?

– Hey, Hayato... are you, looking at me properly...?

– No, I'm not looking at you!

Hayato said, taking off his line of sight again.

– Why aren't you looking at me!?

– Because that's impossible!

– If so, hug me. If not, I'll push you down.

– What, push me down...?

If he's pushed down in this state, he doesn't know what'll happen.

– If so, hug me!

Emilia said strongly again.

– ... o-okay...

It's better than being pushed down.

(Besides, if I'm hugging her, I won't be able to see her boobs)

Thinking so, when hugging her, there was a problem with this.

He felt a soft sensation on his chest.

Even if he doesn't see them, it can't be said that he's not conscious about them.

Or rather, he's way too conscious.

(Something stiff is touching me...)

It looks like *those* are sitting on the breasts of Emilia.

Gulp, Hayato swallowed saliva.

The more he becomes conscious, the more his *thing* ends up becoming stiff.

(Calm down, Kisaragi Hayato...)

Hayato tells himself so.

Calming Emilia is the priority now.

If they keep like this for a while, Emilia will calm down.

He thought so, but it didn't happen.

Like Hayato, Emilia was also excited about this situation.

– Hayato... are you getting big?

– Huh?

– I noticed. Because it's hitting me.

– No, that, ah...

– I can't endure it anymore...

– WHA!?

Emilia started to move all of a sudden and pushed the body of Hayato down to the bed.

With that, Hayato receives an impact on his back.

– Hey, Emilia... more than this and...

Hanging over the fallen Hayato, Emilia brings her face closer.

Her pupils were stained in golden color.

Looks like Hayato ends up swallowing deeply with those eyes.

The distance between face and face was around 10 centimeters.

At that time.

– I'd like to hear in detail when you went to the house of the prez.

– ...what?

– ... how far did you go with the prez?

– Well, that's...

– Why are you hesitating to say it? You can't talk about that with me?

– No, well... or rather, you are strange. Calm down.

– Talk... if you don't—

– ... ah!

Emilia pinched and raised his right breast, Hayato raised his voice unexpectedly.

– Hayato, speak.

– Why, such a thing, so suddenly...

– I felt it. While fighting the prez—the *energy* of Hayato from inside her...

– Ah...

At the same time as he hears the words of Emilia.

The night of the day when he visited the mansion of Claire passed through his mind.

Like the current Emilia, the eyes of Claire were dyed in golden color—.

– ... it was that kind of thing, huh. Okay. Since I'm going to talk, then first of all, calm down. Also, hide your chest properly.

This is bad for the president, but it can't be helped.

If he doesn't speak, the Emilia in her current state won't calm down and won't back down.

– ... really? If I calm down, you'll speak?

– It's true! Now, your breasts!

– Got it.

Emilia smiled nimbly.

Hayato felt relieved, seeing that her eyes regained their original color.

– Then, speak.

Emilia said so and properly wears her Variable Suit and sat down on the bed.

Sitting next to him, while remembering, Hayato starts talking.

– Well... there were a lot of tricks of Liza, resulting in me sleeping with the

president. And then, the chairman became in a running wild state like you just now... and then, we kissed...

– Did you perhaps... do it...?

The expression of Emilia stiffens, and her pupils released a strong golden light.

– No, we didn't do it!

Hayato answers, shaking his head.

– I see, I'm glad.

Emilia showed a smile as if she was relieved from the bottom of her heart, then piled up her lips on the lips of Hayato, returning her eyes to their original color.

Kiss.

It's a light touch kiss.

– ... say, Hayato.

– W-what...?

– That means that I'm still the first of Hayato—can I be your first?

– No, hey, what are you really saying—ah, hey...!

– Hayato, I*—accept me*—and take me, Hayato.

***TN: I was said with boku: kind of neutral I. then she says watashi, a female I.**

– Uwaah!?

Emilia pushed down Hayato again and whispered in his ear.

– I love you... Hayato...

After Emilia kissed his cheek.

Their lips were united once again by Emilia.

Chapter 5: Monitoring mission *The follower*

Matthew Fighting God

A little before the collapsed Emilia woke up.

Latia and Fritz, together with Aly and Wendy, arrived near the laboratory where the *time machine* which was made by Pope Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III and Bill Harvey is——the location specified by Mei Mei where the Pope was hiding herself.

The base itself is an open place.

While surveilling that place, Fritz tossed a communication to Mei Mei.

They're using the satellite of Little Garden to not be sensed by *Puritaria*.

[Do you hear me, Mei Mei? We arrived at the pinpointed location]

– Is that so? How's the situation? Did you find the *time machine*?

[No, unfortunately we can't find it. Maybe it's hidden somewhere]

– ... is that so? In that case, then you'll be unable to destroy it. Can you spot the figure of a person?

[Well, I see a person, and, that is...]

– That's the face we saw back at the World Martial Arts Tournament, isn't it? He's carrying a big cross on his back.

Latia, who's next to Fritz, answers.

[... that means he's Matthew-san. Since the other three have already been captured, he's the last one remaining of the four apostles of the Pope who hasn't been caught yet. Is there anyone else? Like for example, the figures of soldiers?]

– Unfortunately, we haven't found any. Perhaps, they may have been defeated by Matthew inside the building.

– Eh, that... look over there!

Suddenly, Wendy raised her voice

Nonetheless, it's natural for Matthew who's around 500 meters away to not hear that small voice.

When Fritz and the others saw ahead of the finger of the girl, they could confirm the appearance of a single woman.

The Pope of the Holy Church.

Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III.

The woman flew in the sky and landed on the side of Matthew.

Unlike always, there's no hat concealing her.

And as for her arms, she was holding a naked girl in there.

Latia rapidly reports to Mei Mei.

– Mei Mei, Serivia has appeared! What do we do?

– Hey, calm down, Latia. If you raise your voice too much, they'll found us.

– Ah, sorry...

The panicking Latia blocked her mouth with both hands.

Next, Mei Mei asks them.

[There's no one else besides Serivia-san?]

– The other one is the little sister of President Claire.... Serivia was carrying her. Ah, Serivia has entered the building! She held the little sister of the president in her arms!

[As I thought, Liza-san is still with her...]

It seems that the report from Latia was as Mei Mei and the others had guessed.

– What do we do? Shall we commence?

The curiosity and fear of fighting an unknown enemy— —.

Latia was dominated by those two emotions when she asked while restraining those prevalent feelings.

[No, keep standing by as you are for now. I will change places with Dr. Charlotte on the ground from now on]

The moment the words of Mei Mei ended.

They immediately heard the voice of Charlotte.

[... do you hear me, everyone?]

– Yeah, we hear you.

Answering, Latia asked.

– What should we do?

[Before that, there's a report. We're trying to hack the computer at Lunaltia Base from here so that she can't operate it. With that, they shouldn't be able to start the *time machine*]

– Certainly, the Pope has entered the building, but nothing changed...

It was Fritz who said so.

[I know right? By around this time, the Pope should be confused]

With a grounding hit*, and while Charlotte said so with a proud look.

***TN: I don't get the meaning of 足止め成功 :c**

– Ah!

It was Wendy who was looking at the state of the laboratory who gave a small voice.

She took off her gaze from the laboratory, hiding her whole figure in the shade of the rock.

– What happened?

Aly asks with a small voice.

Then, Wendy answered with a trembling voice.

– I felt something... like we were seen by Matthew-san...

– ... what?

– Is that true?

Fritz and Latia ask one after another.

Wendy nodded.

– ... I'll confirm it.

It was Aly who said so.

Sticking out her face slightly from the shade of the rock, she points her gaze towards the laboratory of Bill Harvey.

– ——!!

Latia was convinced, looking at her who pulled back her appearance right away.

– That reaction, as I thought...

– Yeah, there's no doubt that Matthew noticed the situation over here. I'm sure of that. Moreover, Matthew went into the building.

– Wha...! Don't tell me that, what you mean is that he's going to report the Pope about us?

– That possibility is high.

Saying so, Aly asked turning towards the communication device.

– Charlotte, what do we do? Should we withdraw from this place?

[No, that's not necessary]

Charlotte answers and continues her words.

[You guys, continue hiding as you have been doing it till now. I'm sending rescue there. I was about to talk about that now]

– ... rescue? What do you—

Fritz wondered about that, because he heard that Hayato, Emilia and Claire had lost consciousness.

And aside from those three, the one who can battle against the Pope is the usual trio.

However, those three have finished a battle to regain control of Lunaltia Base as well.

They should be considerably exhausted.

[As I mentioned earlier, the ability of the God——of Pope Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III as a Variant is considerable. Aside from the strength of her attacks based on *energy*, the N *barrier* deployed around her body will nullify most of the attacks that use *energy*, additionally she has the power to control people——especially those with strong Variant Virus. You already heard this from Mei Mei, right?]

– Yes...

Fritz nodded.

As Charlotte says, they heard this from Mei Mei.

[So, I thought of something. That only one person among us who gets none of those effects]

– Oh——

With those words, Latia realized.

– You’re right! Since Touka has strong antibodies against Variant Virus, there’s almost no Variant Virus in her body, and since she doesn’t get manipulated, then she’s not going to get damaged by her attacks!

[Pretty much. The ceremony venue has already been liberated, so we decided to temporarily remove her from the guard of the Princess and head over there. However, since Touka-kun is on her own, that will take quite a while, so Nesat decided to be of help too]

Charlotte added that they judged so mainly because she’s the least damaged of the persons who came back to Little Garden section and that it should be Nesat since her *energy* dropped only a little, so she’s still a fighting force.

– If that’s the case, then we feel more secure. If it’s us, then we can win against that Pope. I have that sort of feeling! At any rate, the opponents are two.

– Latia—it would be better to think they aren’t two but three people. With

that look, it seems that Liza may also have been manipulated.

– ... I see. Now that you mention it, there was that too...

– Dr. Charlotte, how much do you think the possibility of Liza attacking us is?

It was Fritz who asked.

[I don't know. But the *energy* of Liza is important to the Pope. In simple words, she shouldn't do something that will make her consume *energy*]

– It'd be great if that's the case...

– For the time being, I don't know if she's going to "fight".

– So that's how it is, huh.

Fritz nods towards the words of Latia.

Wendy raised her voice there.

– Ah, everyone. The Pope-san came out!

– What!?

– But it's not just Serivia-san! Matthew-san and Liza-san are with her!

And then, Serivia immediately turned her eyes towards Wendy and raised a finger in the sky. A chill thing runs through the spine of Wendy.

– This is bad! We must run!

Looking up at the sky, Wendy shouted.

It was because she felt *energy* was gathering there.

– ... wha!

With that voice, Latia and the others also noticed it.

A mass of *energy* similar to a thunder falls from the sky all of a sudden.

The four of them leaps as if dispersing in all four directions, they barely dodged it.

Simultaneously with that, Fritz reported to Charlotte.

– Dr. Charlotte, looks like she finally found us! The Pope has launched an attack!

[I see.... If that's the case, it can't be helped. There's still two minutes till Touka-kun and Nesat-kun arrive. Please resist until then]

— Roger. There's nothing else to do. We'll have to earn time according to the strategy—Wendy!

— Yes!

How will they move now that the situation became like this?

The strategy has already been shared with everyone.

The four of them deploy their armaments all together.

— Okay then, let's go!

Fritz fired a shot, turning the muzzle of Shooting Star—the rifle of *Stronghold*—the Long Shooter type Hundred that he's holding towards Serivia.

Next, Wendy fired seven magical-like beams from *Starlight Dreamer*—her Wizard type Hundred towards Matthew.

— Here I goooooooooo—!

Nonetheless, both Fritz's and Wendy's—.

The beams of the two aren't aimed directly at Serivia or Matthew.

They are no more than a diversion.

It's a strategy so that Aly and Latia who is fully armed launch an attack on Serivia together, using the cloud of dust that whirled up after them.

Aly was the one who launched an attack on Serivia first.

— Haaaaaaaaaaaaa—!

Even so, and as planned, this is also a diversion.

It's not to her liking.

While raising a loud voice, Aly slashed at her with her own Phalanx type Hundred—*Braveheart*.

Not surprisingly, Serivia dodges her nimbly.

However, Latia was approaching there.

Aly raised a loud voice so as to not make her go unnoticed.

– I'll have you return the little sister of the president!

Latia who came close till she was right next to her shouted so, punching Serivia.

– Kuhh!

Her Martial Arts type Hundred *Strike Beast* specializes in speed and close combat.

The fist of Latia was able to hit in the gap successfully, it seized the cheek of Serivia splendidly and sent her body flying to the back.

– Alright!

Latia involuntarily raises a delighted voice.

It was because she was able to keep the distance between Serivia and Liza who was standing still.

– Serivia-sama!

It was Matthew who shouted.

He bombards Latia who hit hard Serivia with the cross he was carrying on his back——he changed his Battle Shooter type Hundred *Sacrifice* to a rifle type. And then, when he tries to fire a shot——.

– I won't let you.

Aly appeared before Matthew.

– Kuh!

Matthew, who was assaulted with *Braveheart*, loses his aim, he had no choice but to dodge it by moving to the back.

Ultimately, Matthew couldn't deliver the shot.

For now, the surprise attack was successful.

However, there's still around one minute till both Touka and Nesat arrive.

They have to earn time during that period.

– Four people here, two people there. We double your numbers. I wonder how much of an opponent God is, now that the advantage is on our side?

Standing in front of the fallen Serivia, Latia emitted those words.

– Aha, ahahah... ahahah, ahahahaha!

– Hmm? Why are you laughing?

Serivia continued her words while standing up, putting her knees on the moon's surface.

– It seems like you already know my identity, yes?

– Yeah, you're something along the lines of God and alien, right? But, we don't care about such things. We'll stop your ambitions. That's the only—

When listening to her answer, Serivia showed a grin on her face.

– Certainly, that's who I am. However, you said one big mistake.

– ... a mistake?

– Yes, a mistake.

At the same time as she says so, Latia noticed that the eyes of Serivia emitted a golden brilliance, then she fell on the moon's surface, receiving a pain on her temporal region as if she was hit with a blunt weapon all of a sudden.

(... as I thought, she can manipulate her...!)

The attack wasn't from Serivia.

Nor it was from Matthew.

While she collapsed, Latia pointed her eyes to those who were attacked.

There was a girl standing with one of her palms facing Latia.

– Ahaha, did you forget? Or haven't you heard? You ought to take back Liza Harvey, who's one of my pieces.

Serivia laughs with a loud voice.

– Kuh...

And, Latia glares at Serivia with a sort of vexing expression on her face, because that's merely a lie.

Believing that it was a success in her mind, she chuckled.

Originally, Latia had predicted that Liza would attack the moment the pupils of Serivia shone.

So, to not make her notice it, she deployed an E *barrier* at the very limit and collapsed on purpose.

Now it would be great to make her talk.

That's right—.

The best goal now is to earn time.

As it was already planned, it's possible to increase the distance between Serivia and Liza.

(...they're here?)

That time should arrive any time now.

It's not only Latia.

The moment the other three thought so.

There was something that the four of them, including Latia, felt inside their bodies.

(They came! It's the *energy* of Nesat!)

She wonders if she felt that *energy* as well.

— ... reinforcements!? Kuh...!

Serivia turns her eyes towards the direction of the incoming energy then grasped the appearance of a girl who was on board of a flying device similar to a manta then immediately shot a bullet of *energy*.

With that, the flying device that Nesat created is destroyed.

However, Touka was hiding while lowering herself, and by kicking the flying device just before that, she flew high in the air.

— Haaaaaaaaaaaaa!

Having her own black sword *Hokuto Kai* at the ready, Touka heads towards the position of Serivia who tries to shoot her down, firing *energy* shots once again.

However, the *energy* shots were erased as soon as they touched the body of Touka.

— Wha— —

Being quite surprised, Serivia opened her eyes wide, but soon became aware of the reason.

— You are— —

— Kenzaki Style Secret Technique— —《Whirlwind Slash》*Senbuuzan!*

— — — kuh!

The body of Serivia swayed, receiving the attack of Touka who slashed at her while rotating her body.

Once she lands on the moon's surface, Touka got in the bosom of Serivia then releases a second long sword with the same momentum.

— *Zaneizan: Second Style!*

***TN:** 残影斬•貳式

Once more, she unleashed Kenzaki Style Secret Technique— —.

Everyone thought that would definitely be the finishing blow.

However— —.

— Wha— —

The pupils of Serivia shine in golden color.

In an instant, she steps back and dodged the attack of Touka at the last moment.

Then, both Nesat and Aly go after her.

She's assaulted with swords from different directions, but she continues dodging them.

– If so, then I——!!

Accelerating, Latia tried to release a kick towards the Pope.

However, by kicking the ground, the Pope soars high in the emptiness.

On her back, there are wings made of *energy*.

– Kuh...!

Chasing her, and when Latia was about to jump.

– Wait, Latia!

It was the voice of Fritz that was heard from the ring of the neck.

Immediately afterwards, a thick *energy* beam was fired towards Serivia.

It's a full power gunshot of Shooting Star——the rifle of Long Shooter type of Fritz.

– ... did that do it?

Instinctively, Latia raised her voice.

But, nothing falls.

– Ah...

Serivia appeared from the dazzling light and remained floating in the air.

(But it doesn't mean that it's not working)

When looking at her, they see that the vestments worn by Serivia became tattered.

That means that the beam of Fritz broke through the *barrier* she was deploying.

Moreover, there was a person trying to launch an attack there.

It's Touka.

– Haaaaaaa———!

It's one of the coordinated strategies that Nesat and Touka were planning on their way towards this place.

It's a measure taken the moment Serivia floated in the sky——it's to slash at

Serivia using sheets of steel like stairs that Nesat created in the air.

— Kenzaki Style Secret Technique— —

Kicking the last foothold to jump high, Touka tried to slash at Serivia. Until at the last moment, Serivia didn't notice her.

This time she'll surely be able to get her.

She thought so, but a shadow appeared before Serivia.

— — —you won't.

— Wha— —

It was Matthew who dyed his eyes in golden color and attacked Touka who tried to release *Zaneizan* towards Serivia.

He understands that Touka doesn't get attacks based on *energy*, but she does get physical attacks.

Matthew instantly appeared in front of Touka and vigorously swung the Battle Shooter type Hundred he was carrying on his shoulders— —*Sacrifice*.

— Guuh!

It's a direct hit on the head of Touka.

Her body fell in a straight line and hit the moon's surface.

— Touka!

Shouting, Latia rushes to the side of Touka.

Touka fainted in the center of the big crater that was just made.

— Kuh!

Impossible, the ultimate weapon ended up knocked down....

(... what do we do?)

Latia ponders.

The situation was completely reversed.

Matthew landed on the moon's surface then speaks to Serivia who's floating above him.

– Serivia-sama, leave the rest to me. With opponents of this degree, me alone is enough.

– Oh my, Matthew. Are you really sure? That helps me a lot.

– There's no problem.

When Serivia heard that reply, she landed to the side of the standing Liza.

And then, when turning her gaze towards Matthew,

– I understand. When you finish, we'll do the thing we always do.

– Yes, Serivia-sama.

Simultaneously with those words.

Matthew who was inexpressible until now, showed a smile for the first time.

– Well then, shall we watch the game from over there?

Saying so, Serivia gently flies up, connecting hands with Liza.

The destination they are trying to head is on top of a nearby rock.

– Hey, wait!

As if was natural, Latia tried to move and go after Serivia.

However—.

– Don't move.

– Wha—

The pupils of Matthew shone in golden color.

His speed is so great that Matthew stands in front of Latia who jumped and struck her with *Sacrifice*.

– Kuh!

Latia couldn't evade it, she was only able to block it with her arms crossed.

With that momentum, Latia is knocked down on the moon's surface.

Following that, it was Aly who went after Matthew who landed.

– Haaaaaa!

She slashes at Matthew with the two blades of *Braveheart*.

However, Matthew avoided that attack while turning around his body.

And then, by using that reaction, he sent flying the body of Aly with *Sacrifice*.

– Aly-san!

It's Wendy who shouted, looking at Aly who was blown far away.

– This was the third—.

– ... !!

You're the fourth; the moment when Matthew turned his shining golden colored pupils towards Wendy.

The face of Matthew shows a great distortion, he's blown off to the side.

– Who's the third one, huh? I'm not done yet!

It's Latia who shouted.

She's not defeated yet.

Getting up and accelerating, she hit hard the cheek of Matthew.

That obviously doesn't mean that it's their victory.

Matthew quickly got up.

It's Fritz and Wendy who launch an attack there.

– ... you are troublesome guys....

Matthew dodges the beams that the two of them fired with a jump and by transforming *Sacrifice* into a gun shape, he aimed and shot Fritz in the air, but it ended up being blocked by his shield.

However, this wasn't what he was after.

He threw *Sacrifice* while turning around his body as he was.

– Eh...?

It hit the body of Wendy that was full of gaps.

– Kyaah!

Wendy collapses receiving the direct hit of *Sacrifice*.

Although she fell victim to him, Matthew has no weapons now.

Trying to make use of this gap, Nesat creates a twin sword in her hand and swooped it down on Matthew.

But the attack of Nesat doesn't land.

It's because Matthew used the ability of the Variant.

Then, he catches *Sacrifice* that was coming back like a boomerang.

With that, Matthew attacked Nesat.

— ... kuh!

The attack of Matthew is fast and very heavy.

It's because he released the ability of the Variant.

Nesat parried *Sacrifice* which was swung down, but as things are, she might end up being crushed.

Because of that, Nesat also releases only for an instant the ability of the Variant and brushes it away.

The eyes of Nesat dye in golden color.

And at that instant.

A voice was heard in her head.

[I will never lose——because I will receive the favor from Serivia-sama——]

She recalled the moment when he fought with Kisaragi Hayato.

This is what it's called the empathy between Variants.

Next, images float behind the eyes of Nesat.

It was a small church of a medium-sized town.

Around 20 children are gathered in a big room there.

— Today a great priest-sama from the Holy Church head office has arrived. You will be able to listen to a wonderful story.

An old man who is the priest of the church said so, then a woman in white

vestments entered in the big room.

She was introduced as a great priest, but in reality she's the Pope of *Puritania* ——Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III.

Falsifying her identity, she advocated to teachings like this.

Her goal is to look for a《God Child》.

It's kind of a selection for Slayer scouting, so to speak.

While explaining teachings, she fixedly gazes at the children.

What called her attention was an absent-minded boy watching outside of the window.

There's no doubt he didn't hear the story.

It seems that it's completely uninteresting for him.

However, Serivia felt a talent as a Slayer from him.

Like a resonance of the Variant Virus, so to speak.

And when Serivia finished the story.

She asked to the priest of the church who came to say his words of appreciation.

— What is the name of that child?

What she pointed with her line of sight is the boy of a while ago.

— Well, that boy, you ask...? His name is Will. Actually, he is an orphan we are taking care of in this church.

The priest continued with a troubled appearance.

— ... is it because he didn't hear the story of the great priest-sama?

— Yes, sort of.

— I am sorry. That boy, since we are taking care of him, he has been like this. It can be said that he does not have an interest in anything.... Even us do not know what to do with him...

— Is that so? If that's the case, is it fine if I go and speak just a bit with him?

– Yes, of course, please go ahead.

Serivia, who got permission of the priest, at that boy she— —.

She approached to the side of Will.

– Will-kun, can you give me a minute?

– ...

Will didn't reply.

However, he just turned his face to Serivia.

– You didn't hear to my story a few moments ago. I wonder why is that?

– ... because I wasn't interested.

– If so, then in what things are you interested?

The moment she asked so.

The pupils of Serivia dyed in golden color.

Thereupon, the pupils of Will also dyed in golden color for an instant.

– ... I-in nothing.

Although Will was stupefied for several seconds, at the same time the eyes of Serivia regained their original color, he replied so, looking like he wasn't interested in anything.

When she noticed it, the interior of the room was starting to get noisy.

From among the children, she could hear voices that criticize Will, such as not having manners with the other person who is the great priest-sama.

If it's with this personality, then it can't be helped.

Apparently, he seems to feel quite out of place among the children of the village.

Rapidly the priest comes up and said to Serivia.

– I am sorry, he is truly a rude child...

Serivia heard his circumstances from the priest after that.

She was told that he was living with his mother from a very young age and

that his mother died in an accident, protecting him.

- So that's how it is... Then, can I request something?
- ... a request?
- If it's fine with you, why don't you let me take care of Will-kun?
- Eh...?

The priest was amazed with the sudden proposal.

- I felt a portion of the《Gods' Power》in Will-kun.
- Does that mean he has the qualities to become a Slayer?

Nods, Serivia nodded.

- Yes, so will you give me your permission?
- As for me, if he says he is fine with it, then I do not see the problem...

The priest turns his gaze towards Will.

Serivia went to Will and asked him.

- Hey, I've been wondering. Do you want to visit the Holy Church?
- ... do as you like.

That's the reply of Will.

- If that's the case, then it's decided.

It was truly unbelievable for the children of the village including the priest that a portion of《Gods' Power》is dwelling inside Will.

But if the great priest says that such a thing is possible, then nobody can put an objection there.

Thus, it had been decided that Will would head to the main office of Puritaria, leaving behind the church with Serivia.

- This is where you are going to live from today.
- ... I see.

That was a room of *Puritaria* main office.

– Unlike till now, you can use this large room for yourself. Aren't you happy, I wonder?

At any rate, in the small church where he was living, bunk beds were installed in a 15 square meter room, he was barely given that as his own space.

Now it seems that all those 15 square meters became his own space.

However, Will wasn't delighted.

– I don't care.

That's the answer of Will.

– You really aren't interested in anything, hmm.

Showing a “*Oh dear!*” expression, Serivia continued.

– I told you, didn't I? You're a person who has the power of God. It's fine if you don't have an interest in anything else. But just do your best in training. In that case, I will give you my favor.

– Fa, vor...?

– Another way to say it is that I am going to give you the favor* of loving you in a special way.

***TN: This favor and the previous favor are different. This favor is because of the verb あげる (give X a favor of...) and the previous ones represent the action itself of giving a person's favor/affection towards another individual.**

Serivia gets close Will and hung *Sacrifice* on his neck.

– ... this is?

– I made it with a God Stone. Carry it close to yourself.

– ...

Will touched it with his hand.

Then, the cross shone a little.

The cross reacted to his *energy*.

– That's good, as I thought, you are a child of God. A very wonderful kid.

Right after she said so.

The pupils of Serivia dye in golden color.

The pupils of Will too.

Serivia smiled sweetly and by putting her hands on both cheeks of Will, she kissed his forehead.

Immediately after the lips of Serivia were apart from his forehead.

– Okaa, san...

Without thinking, Will was murmuring so.

From his eyes, tears are flowing.

– Okaa-san? Is it something wrong?

– ... no, it's nothing.

As if embarrassed, Will replied.

That reaction is as Serivia was expecting.

He only wanted one thing.

Not an object or a friend.

But his mother he loved so much.

That's what she understood when she spoke to him the first time.

Influencing the Variant Virus going around inside his body, she looked into his mind—his memories.

That was a splendid and correct interpretation.

Right before kissing his forehead.

Serivia made use of her technique and put over herself the figure of his mother.

That made it possible to completely grab the heart of Will.

– Yes.... It would be great if it's nothing.

Smiling sweetly, Serivia said.

– Well then, this is all for now. Training will begin from tomorrow. You must be tired because of the trip, so take a good rest today.

– Wait!

Will told Serivia who tried to leave the room.

– What is it?

– If I do my best in training... will you kiss my forehead again?

– Yes, of course.

It was the first time since he lost his mother that he talked to people from his own.

The moment he was kissed on the forehead by Serivia.

Will regained his feelings as a human being, as well as what himself wanted, even if it's a little.

... nevertheless, his usual hasn't changed much since then.

He doesn't let his emotions surface and she doesn't know what he's thinking.

He doesn't mingle with other people.

But, Will kept training earnestly.

In order to be stronger than anyone, he continued training in solitude.

That way, he can receive her favor.

Building up his strength rapidly, Will also awoke the ability of the Variant.

It was expected because his aptitude is superior, and he received lots of favor.

And thus, Will is one of the apostles of Pope Serivia.

He became Matthew.

[My only reason to live is to be praised by Serivia-sama. That's why I can't lose! In order to get her favor again, there is no way I can lose!]

She hears the voice of Matthew again.

What he wanted.

Serivia gave him the affection of a mother.

But, that's a deception.

Still, for that love, he's betting everything.

He felt that he wanted to be the number one of Serivia, more than anyone else.

For this reason, he's her strength.

However, that love goes only one way.

Serivia only looks at him as a tool.

That's why he never interacted with others.

(... she's really a heartless person...)

But, because of that, Nesat noticed a gap and took advantage of him.

Nesat was getting aware of his weakness.

(What I want to do, I'm sure if it's those two people, they must understand it...!)

After she glanced at Fritz and Latia.

– *Trace On!*

Nesat created two rings that resembled the *Duo Varga* of Nakri.

– Fritz, Latia.

Shouting, Nesat threw the two rings in succession.

– You who fought with us, remember the sham battle!

– !

Latia who heard those words, opened her eyes in a big way, looking at the direction of Nesat.

And then, she gathers her voice with Fritz's.

「Roger」

It seems they got it.

While Nesat shows a satisfied look, Matthew brushed away with *Sacrifice* one of the approaching rings.

With this, no matter if he brushes them away or if he wards them off, either way is good.

They are no more than a diversion.

The real thing comes from here.

– Well then, let's go!

Shouting, Fritz fires a thick beam from Shooting Star.

Matthew blocked it by deploying an E *barrier*.

It's Latia who strikes him there.

– Haaaaaaaaa!

Although it's a surprise attack that used the fumes from the explosion, Matthew was suspecting of it.

He has *Sacrifice* at the ready and tries to repel the incoming Latia.

However, there's another thing approaching Matthew— —.

As for the attack that Nesat launched, he didn't notice it.

– Wha!?

Chains have twined around the body of Matthew.

With that, he's unable to move and it shouldn't be removed by moving about.

(... as I calculated...)

Nesat involuntarily relaxed her mouth.

In the cloud of smoke caused by the bombardment of Fritz, Nesat deployed a chain that looked like the *Everlasting* of Erika and set it free towards Matthew.

(This is what Emilia-san did to me in the sham battle)

The members at that time other than Emilia were Fritz and Latia.

Therefore, she thought that they would understand.

(This is truly a relief)

Nesat hypothesized the one and only weakness of Matthew.

That is, loneliness.

That is because he continued fighting alone.

Although he can respond to their attacks to that extent, he didn't get used to cooperation.

Rather than that, he's not very good at guessing the movements of others.

It doesn't seem that he trained too much.

On the other hand, this side is accustomed to cooperation.

If it's a partner you know well, then you can predict how your ally will move.

– Well done, Nesat! I'll finish him with this!

– Kuh...!

Latia keeps the momentum and hits Matthew.

That fist, is of course, a direct hit— —.

While the body of Matthew was in the middle of being blown away, Nesat made the chain disappear.

Because of that, Matthew was blown far away due to the punching force, then hit a wall of rock and stopped moving.

– Alright, we won!

Latia gave a voice of joy.

– Congratulations for that.

– ... wha...

What they felt together with the words of Serivia is the existence of a mass of strong *energy*.

Rapidly turning around, Latia avoids the light ball with a jump.

– As one would expect, you dodged it, hmm?

Saying that, Serivia descended to the side of Latia and the others.

– I can't believe it, I didn't expect you to defeat Matthew.

Serivia turns her eyes towards the fallen Matthew.

On his side there was a cross made of *Variable Stone*.

Serivia gave it to him in the past.

It's a Hundred made of *Variable Stone*.

Serivia once again turns her eyes to Latia and the others.

— It seems you're better than I thought. Don't you think so too? If It's you three, then you may be able to defeat me——

Not Nesat, Latia nor Fritz answered those words. Of course, they don't think that they can win.

Their opponent is the Pope.

They have already heard from Charlotte that she's an alien.

— This is a great help for you. Further reinforcements may arrive, so I need to hurry. For that, I'm going to show my seriousness a little.

From the body of Serivia who said so, a tempestuous *energy* was released.

That becomes a dazzling light and illuminates brightly the whole area.

— Wha——

And when that light was fading.

Serivia was no longer in that place.

— What the, is that appearance...?

Latia looked up overhead and muttered spontaneously.

Serivia was floating in the air and was wearing an ominous armor.

Things like horns grow on her head and as for her back, mechanical wings are growing.

Those wings look like a double-headed dragon.

— This is the full armament of my Shaman type Hundred——《Will of God》*Providence*.

— What *Providence*? That looks like the devil.

Fritz involuntarily cracks a joke like that.

– ... the devil... well, certainly, that may be...

Saying so, Serivia showed a stifled laugh while she put up her index finger in the air.

– However, whichever you choose, I stand on top of you, humans. That’s not going to change.

Simultaneously with those words, a mass of *energy* falls over the heads of Nesat, Latia and Fritz.

The three of them leapt horizontally and dodged it.

It was Fritz who recovered his stance first and attacked Serivia.

He fired a bombardment from his Shooting Star.

But it was erased by the *N barrier* which is deployed around her body.

– Dammit!

Fritz instinctively spat out.

– Fufufu, you can’t deal even a single scratch with that level of bombardment.

– If so, then a direct attack will!

Latia said so and by jumping high, she threw a turning kick towards Serivia.

However, that didn’t work either.

Serivia blocked it with the barrier deployed before her eyes.

Next, Latia unleashes punches and kicks, but the result was the same.

Everything ends up being stopped by the barrier.

– This is slowly getting irritating, don’t you agree?

Serivia said so, then knocked down Latia with the wings, striking the moon’s surface.

– Latia!

Fritz shouted.

– This much is nothing to me——

Don’t worry about it, she was saying so, but when Latia straightened up, she

stared in wonder, feeling a strong *energy* overhead.

— Wha— —

When looking at it, Serivia was trying to bombard her from the mouths of the double-headed dragon attached to both ends of the wings.

— I'll put an end to this.

The *energy* has already been filled in the mouth of the dragon.

Latia tried to move to dodge it.

But at that time, the eyes of Serivia emitted an intense light.

Ba-dump, the heart of Latia beat fast.

(What is, this...?)

Her body doesn't move and what lies before her eyes becomes blurry in an instant.

— Ah...

Moreover, even her full armament ended up being cancelled.

(No way, this...)

The only thing that can be seen in her field of vision that is dyed white is the brilliant and shining eyes of Serivia.

(This is bad...!)

This is what is called the brainwashing of Serivia, and when she noticed it. It was too late to do anything.

At this rate, her consciousness will be taken over— —.

— —no.

Before that, she will take with her body the bombardment from the two-headed dragon that is accumulating *energy* in its mouths.

And when that happens, she will definitely be knocked down.

She might end up dying.

(I have to do it, in one way or another...)

She thinks so, but her body doesn't move.

She can't deploy an E *barrier*.

(There's really nothing that I can do? Am I going to be defeated like this?)

A feeling similar to resignation is dominating the heart of Latia.

From the mouths of the double-headed dragon, bombardments were fired together with a dazzling light.

However, her visual field was immediately covered by a shadow.

— Guaah!

Then she heard an explosion and the scream of a man.

And with “what happened?”, Latia understood.

(No way... that's...)

Because he stood as if covering her body with his own, she couldn't see his face.

Even his clothes and armor weren't clearly visible.

Still, that scream, who did it?

Who's standing in front of her?

Latia was able to comprehend.

The warmth and the smell of that person— —.

She's completely aware of his painful-like breathing sounds.

— Fritz!



Latia raised her face, shouting the name of that man.

– Hey.... I made it just in time, I'm glad...

Fritz shows a meaningful smile.

However, it was more like a painful smile that says nothing but sorrow.

– ... Fritz, your shoulder...

The gaze of Latia is turned towards his swaying and bloodstained shoulder.

– Yeah... it seems that it was a direct hit to my right arm... I can't move it at all, from the shoulder to the tip of my fingers... In that case, I can't shoot either with Shooting Star, huh...

– Sorry. Because... because of me, you...!

– No, my weak armor is at fault. *Stronghold* is... listening, ama...zed...

– Fritz!

He closes the eyelids together with the words that became intermittent.

Once his eyes are completely closed, the armament of Fritz cancels, collapsing into the chest of Latia.

– *Vexing*... because I was weak, because I was completely useless, I was protected by Fritz. I'm really... sorry, Fritz...

After she held Fritz tightly while saying so in tears.

Latia glared at Serivia, lying down his body.

– Unforgivable. I'm not going to forgive you! Uaaaaaaaaa— — —!

While releasing an intense *energy* from her whole body, Latia has full armament once again then kicked the moon's surface.

Looking at that figure, Nesat shouts.

– It's useless, Latia! Even if you launch an attack recklessly— —

It was exactly as Nesat stated.

The desperate attack of Latia who jumped out with excessive anger never hits

Serivia.

Simply put, she just keeps cutting the empty space.

– Are you satisfied already?

– Kuah!

With the wings that the head of the dragon has attached, Serivia knocked down the body of Latia on the moon's surface.

– This is the end.

Raising both hands, Serivia created a big sphere of light above her head.

Latia fainted due to the damage of the previous attack.

If Serivia gets to drop that, she won't avoid the direct hit.

If so, her life is in danger as well.

Moreover, Fritz is also next to her.

– Kuh! Uuh!

Just before Serivia throws the sphere of light.

It was Nesat who deployed a barrier there at the last moment, standing in front of Latia and Fritz.

– You are not going to take their lives!

Releasing *energy*, she strengthens the barrier, she stopped the sphere of light with that.

Still, its power is powerful.

– Kyaah!

Together with the violent explosion, the body of Nesat was also sent flying to the back.

– Haa, haa...

In the rolled-up cloud of dust, Nesat stood up, breathing repeatedly with her shoulders going up and down.

It seems that she avoided the direct hit towards Latia and Fritz in one way or

another, but it might be difficult to stop the next.

She was feeling that her *energy* is at her limit.

(... what, do I do?)

Serivia said as if provoking her, looking at the figure of the cornered Nesat.

– You’re almost at your limit too, correct?

– Kuh...

She was on the mark. It’s vexing.

Still, indomitably, Nesat stares at Serivia who’s floating in the sky.

(What do I do? What should I do?)

About fighting, it’s pointless since she’s already the only one.

The possible strategies were getting limited.

(... what do I do? What do I copy...?)

Think.

What you want now.

That’s—strength.

Somehow or other, I want strength.

Strength to not be defeated by the Pope in front of me.

That’s irresistible, I want it, I want it.

(Should I... copy the Hundred of the Pope?) —No.

In that situation, it’s useless.

She doesn’t think she can master that Hundred, so she doesn’t think that she can win with that.

After all, she doesn’t know well the ability itself.

(If that’s the case—)

The day of the Gardens Festa crossed her mind.

When she copied the Savage.

She heard from Dr. Charlotte that her ability at that time was far beyond her limit.

And although she was in a rampaging condition——and that the ability of the Variant was in a completely awakened state——.

(To what extent can I draw it out?)

The unleashing of the ability of the Variant is a double-edged sword.

If it's used poorly and you don't control it and suppress it, then you might run wildly.

Furthermore, her remaining amount of *energy* is low.

Her maximum ability can be pulled out for a few minutes——.

No, it might be for a minute or so.

(But, it's worth the try, so I...!)

At any rate, no other method came into her mind.

Nesat projected the shape of the Savage on the other side of the pupil.

And then, she makes her eyes shine in golden color——.

– ... Trace O...

– It's enough, please stop.

It was when Nesat tried to wear the armor of the Savage on her whole body.

Saying so, Serivia came down to the moon's surface.

Moreover, she cancels the armament.

– ... stop, you say? What do you mean?

– As you can see, it means I stopped fighting. There's no benefit for both of us to keep fighting. That's what I think.

Saying so flatly, Serivia continued.

– You're strong. For a simply human being, nonetheless. Besides, what can you do by yourself? Even if you fight with me, you'll die. You don't want to die, am I correct?

– Kuh...

Nesat shows a vexing expression.

That's certainly the case.

– Also, I don't want to use *energy* and waste it more than this. So, let's stop. If we fight any further, reinforcements may come. And that will only increase your losses, you know.

– But, when it comes to reach your objective, you will expose the Earth to a crisis. So, I—

– No, you're wrong.

– I'm wrong? What do—

– Certainly, I may expose the Earth to a crisis. For this reason, you should fight and not get injured. If protecting the Earth is what you ought to do, then after I have reached my goal, you should protect the Earth. I'm sure that regarding you guys, you'll have enough power to do that.

– But...

... is that really okay?

Still, the danger that the Earth has doesn't change and when Serivia reaches her goal, then won't that girl—the little sister of Claire Harvey, end up losing her life?

What Serivia was saying, isn't that nothing else but a joke?

While such thoughts are all jumbled together, Serivia continues speaking.

– Besides, I want a spectator. For the moment this earthling graduates from God. I will entrust you the duty to convey that.

– Don't fool around!

– I'm not joking. I'm serious.

Serivia laughed loudly then released *energy* from her palms towards her feet.

Then, a huge hole opened on the moon, and the *time machine* makes its appearance.

– Even if the system of the laboratory itself is blocked, there’s no problem if it’s this way.

Serivia broadly grinned then called Liza who was standing by on a huge rock near there and said, putting her hand on her head.

– Now, shall we begin?

Then, the body of Liza starts to shine violently.

– Wait— —

When Nesat tried to move, the eyes of Serivia shone in golden color.

Because of that, Nesat wasn’t able to move.

– I said that you will be watching from there, didn’t I?

After she said so.

Spreading her hands in a great way over her head, Serivia raised a loud and delighted voice.

– WITH THIS, I CAN RETURN! TO THAT DAY, TO PLANET NOTRE DAME!

Epilogue

– There’s nothing that can be done by me, huh...

In the Student Council Room, Liddy Steinberg wasn’t having a relaxed time.

She was walking around the room without being able to sit.

The time in Little Garden is 23:00.

Around 2 hours have already passed since the incident that occurred at Lunaltia Base.

It goes without saying that Liddy knew that Judal was attacked at the ceremony venue and that Pope Serivia Notre Dame Paulo III was raising violence.

However, there’s almost nothing that can be done in the present condition by Liddy who’s on the Earth.

The only thing she can do is to show appreciation and encourage the students of the intelligence department who are doing their best together with Mei Mei, Chris and the others who are at Lunaltia Base.

(... what is the situation like now?)

If there’s a big change, she was told that she would get contacted by Charlotte, but nothing has happened in the last 30 minutes or so.

(Is the situation in a stalemate, I wonder?)

She’s worried about it, but it would be bad to obstruct Charlotte to ask her about the situation in detail.

(Even if I just stay here, I won’t calm down. But what If I move to the briefing room?)

That’s the place where the students of the intelligence department are stationed.

She thought that she would be able to get information there rather than in the Student Council Room, and when she tried to leave the room,

— — — — — !!

All of a sudden, the notebook placed on the office desk made a loud sound.
It's an emergency call.

Moving rapidly to the front of the desk to confirm it, she recognized that it was from Dr. Charlotte. Liddy replies immediately.

[What happened, Dr. Charlotte?]

[... that reaction tells me that you haven't noticed it yet. Take a look at this
— —]

[This is...]

What was displayed on the monitor together with the words of Charlotte was the image of the universe that was far beyond the skies of Little Garden— —and far beyond the atmosphere.

Liddy opens her eyes wide in surprise and mutters in blank amazement.

[What is, this...?]



What was there was a large《space-time fissure》, she has never been seen this before.

A little before Liddy witnessed the《space-time fissure》.

In the courtyard of Little Garden.

– There’s nothing to do. Nothing at all.

The one who was grumbling so with her upper body thrown on the circular table in front of her is Aila Esrvady who belongs to the first year of the Martial Arts Department of Little Garden. Sitting in front of her, and who also belongs to the first year of the Martial Arts Department of Little Garden is Isurugi Ryuuto.

The two of them boast the merit of being the number one and number two among the first-years who enrolled in Little Garden Martial Arts Department this year and they were immediately nominated to *Selections* by the President Liddy.

The reason was that the more Slayers are gathered on the moon, the less of them are on the Earth——and because of that, they wanted to quickly train Slayers so they can fight the Savages.

This duo has already experienced actual fighting with the Savages and are steadily increasing their true strength.

Such duo is staying in the campus at midnight like this because something might happen on the Earth due to the problems that occurred at Lunaltia Base, and because the members of *Selections* were ordered to standby within the school.

But since that order, there hasn’t been contact from the Student Council.

While sliding his fingers on the Tablet PC he placed on the table, Ryuuto muttered.

– ... what is happening on the moon, I wonder...? There’s a rumor that says that the company president Judal was apparently attacked by Elena Skalnicore, she’s one of the Slayers that participated in the Rasiya team at the World

Martial Arts Tournament, however...

Ryuuto is looking over an anonymous bulletin board on the *cybernet*.

The place he eventually reached is only a news site but it is said that the regulations are severely not well understood.

The relay of the ceremony had ended immediately after Judal was stabbed.

With that much, it's natural that the world is in chaos.

What on earth is going on? With a mixture of good and bad regarding the bulletin board.

There's a lot of information gathered, be it lie or truth.

– For some reason, there are posts where Elena-san was going out with Cezary Gravin, the leader of Rasiya team who suffered a violent death due to a mysterious terrorist attack last year, and others where even the company president Judal is the one who murdered him, ordering that terrorist attack. But, is this true? Besides, and for an instant a moment ago, the dazzling light that was fired and made Little Garden shook, was an attack of the satellite weapons that are in the space, or something like that.... And apart from Little Garden, there are other places that were attacked, and it's rumored that the Holy Church is the one who did it...

– ... enough! Those stories are irrelevant to me!!

Aila, who stood up with an irritated look, declared so, turning her index finger towards Ryuuto.

– The things such as writings that are in bulletin boards and the like are mostly false rumors! Besides, the company president Judal and the like are irrelevant to me! But if that woman called *Elena* caused harm to Claire-sama, the story would be different! I would go there myself and engrave punishment on the body of that woman called *Elena*!

– Well, irrelevant, you say...

Though not quite satisfactorily, he's the company president of Warslan Company which manages Little Garden.

His life and death doesn't necessarily affect them from now on.

(Moreover, “engraving punishment on her body”...)

He doesn't get it well, but he's more than frightened.

Even though he has talked a lot of things like this with Aila, he's trying to not be deeply affected by it. He doesn't know what to do if he steps on a land mine.

Right, Ryuuto thought in his mind.

– ... hey, Aila-san, where are you going?

When he noticed it, Aila turns her back on Ryuuto and began to walk towards the school building.

– Where? You don't ask such things to a maiden!

Turning back, Aila shouted, turning her face bright red.

Looking at that figure, Ryuuto seems to be able to guess where Aila tried to go.

His face also dyes red, then says words of apology, swinging to the left and right both hands in front of his face.

– Err, this... I am sorry... eh... what is it?

He asked so because Aila stands upright, she was fixedly staring at the empty space.

– ——look over there.

– Over there...?

Turning his face towards the same direction as Aila, he confirms what is reflected in his eyes.

– Eh——?

Looking at the big fissure in the sky there, Ryuuto stared in wonder.

– What is that...?

Immediately after he muttered so.

From the PDA of Ryuuto and Aila, a loud emergency call reverberated at the same time.

It's from Liddy Steinberg, the current Student Council President of Little Garden.

Looking at each other's face, they press the reception button at the same time, arranging their voices.

– President Liddy, the sky is particularly terrible!

– President Liddy, the sky has become unusually dreadful!

[Naturally, I comprehend that]

– That was the answer from Liddy. She continues her words.

[There is a gigantic space-time fissure springing forth in outer space. Several hundreds of Savages have appeared from there. 6 hours remaining till they approach the Earth——]

Aila and Ryuuto swallowed saliva all together listening to those words.

[Regarding their final number, the prediction says that it may get approximately to a thousand. Get ready to sortie at once. Understood?]

– Yes.

– Absolutely!

Ryuuto and Aila, those two, replied all together then started to move to change to their Variable Suits.